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# The PROTHONOTARY

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## THE MONTH

Changeable weather throughout December averaged out to near the normals, with the temperature 1.8 degrees above and precipitation 0.42 inches below the long-term average. The first ten days, however, were cold, and 16 of the last 21 days had temperatures above normal. The ground was snow-covered on the first 11 days; but during the rest of the month it was mostly bare, only five days having more than a trace of snow. A severe ice storm on the 4th formed a coating one-half to three-fourths of an inch thick on trees, shrubs, weeds, and grasses. Vegetation remained ice-coated for several days. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

The virtual absence of all species of "northern finches and grosbeaks" and the scarcity of most of the migrant and winter visitant species of owls - except the Snowy Owl - are noteworthy. Chickadees were noticeably less common than usual, the great majority of flocks consisting of not over two or three individuals, as observed both in the woods and at feeders. On the other hand, some of the half-hardy native sparrows and icterids were more common than usual at this time of the year. Cowbirds especially were many times more numerous at winter feeding stations than ever before. More Flickers have come to our attention than in any previous winter.

The Rock Wren is the most outstanding record of the year. Up to the time the fifth edition of the A.O.U. Check-list was written, this species had previously been collected east of the Mississippi River only twice. These records were from Illinois and Michigan. Of the latter record, Heather Thorpe of the University of Michigan Museum writes that there is a suspicion that the Rock Wren recorded for Michigan "might have hitchhiked via boxcar for there were tracks nearby!" In any case, the specimen more recently collected at Port Weller represents the easternmost record. It was identified by Lester L. Short, Jr., of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as the typical race, Salpinctes o. obsoletus.

Quite remarkably, this bird had somehow found a habitat duplicating surprisingly well some of the more salient features of its chosen niche in its

far-western range: the extensive piles of boulder-size rocks in the bleak, open, windswept situation provided by the twin piers projecting about a mile into Lake Ontario to form the northern end of the Welland Canal. The abundant sunshine and the aridity of its accustomed surroundings were of course not to be had here.

In his verifying write-up for the day of discovery, Carl Mrozek offers as a possible explanation of the occurrence of the Rock Wren in this region, "the great and broad midwestern storm which swept the breadth of the Great Plains and whipped our area as well, just a few days before the observation." - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1961) and its Supplement, has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Horned Grebe	Dec.	5	6 Cuba	Burtens
Pied-billed Grebe	"	10	1 Belmont	Burtens
Great Blue Heron	"	8	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
American Bittern	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>10L</u>	1 Belmont	Burtens
	(died on Dec. 11; specimen now in Buffalo Museum of Science)			
Whistling Swan	Dec.	31	18 Chaut. L. at Stow	Beal, Sundell
Green-winged Teal	"	18	5 Belmont	Burtens
Shoveler	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>13L</u>	1 West Branch Nia. River	Rew
	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>13L</u>	1 near Chippawa, Ont.	Rosche, Gellermann
Ring-necked Duck	Dec.	5	1 Cuba	Burtens
Bufflehead	"	14	2 Scio	Burtens
King Eider	"	7	2 Port Weller, Ont.	Andrle, Clark
Hooded Merganser	"	5	6 Cuba	Burtens
	"	31	1 Greenhurst	Beal, R. Sundell
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	6-31	1-2 Belmont	Burtens
	"	19,23	1,1 Hamburg, Lake View	Bourne
	"	19	1 over Belmont	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	19	1 near Fillmore	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	22	1 Derby	Brockners
	"	22	1 Armor	Brockner
	"	24	1 Grand Island	Freitags
Cooper's Hawk	"	14	1 Belmont	Burtens
Red-should. Hawk	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>12</u>	1 near East Aurora	Rosche, Gellermann
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>5,12,19</u>	4,11,3 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	9	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	20,31	1 Derby	Brockners



Vol. 31, No. 1 - Noteworthy Records (cont)

Rough-l. Hawk	Dec.	22	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	26,29,31	7,14,4 Lyndonville	Smiths
Bald Eagle	"	19	1 Hamburg	Bourne
		(immature)		
Marsh Hawk	Dec.	6,29	2 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	8,9	1 Belmont	Burtons
	"	20	1 Grand Island	Websters
Killdeer	"	1	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtell
	"	13	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew
	"	20	1 Grand Island	Websters
	"	29	1 Cuba	Burtons
Dunlin	Dec.	2L	4 Pt.Colborne Harbor, Ont.	Clark
Glaucous Gull	Dec.	3F	3 Squaw Island, Buffalo	Andrle, Byron
Franklin's Gull	Dec.	6L	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	D. Salisbury et al
Barn Owl	Dec.	3	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Snowy Owl	"	2-31	1-3 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	5,12,13	1,2,2 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	6	1 Greenhurst	Beal
	"	6	1 Front Park, Buffalo	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	12	2 Fort Erie, Ont. area	Mitchell et al
	"	13	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew
	"	13	1 Chippawa, Ont.	Rew
	"	13	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	13	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	14	1 Chippawa, Ont.	Folemsbees
	"	16	1 Squaw Island, Buffalo	Andrle
	"	20	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Folemsbee
	"	27	1 Town of Batavia	Buckland
	"	27,29,31	2,1,1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Short-eared Owl	"	3	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Folemsbee
	"	5,12,19	16,4,6 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	6	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	10	2 Chippawa, Ont.	Freitags
	"	27	5 Lyndonville	Smiths
Belted Kingfisher	"	6	2 Chippawa, Ont.	Folemsbees
	"	10,12	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Yellow-sh. Flicker	"	11,16	1 Hamburg	Andrles
	"	12	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	19	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	19	1 near Belmont	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	31	2 Beaver Island St. Park	Freitags
Y.-b. Sapsucker	"	29	1 Belmont	Burtons
Common Crow	"	28	500 Alfred	Burtons
Tufted Titmouse	"	11	1 Lakewood (f)	Beal
	"	31	2 Fluvanna	Beal, Sundell
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	29,30	1 Belmont	Burtons
Winter Wren	"	27,31	1 Jamestown	Beal, Sundell
*Rock Wren	"	6	1 Port Weller, Ont.	Mrozek, Brownstein, D. Salisbury et al
	"	7	1 Port Weller, Ont.	Andrle, Clark
		(collected; first record for Province of Ontario and B.O.S. Study Area)		
Brown Thrasher	Dec.	5,9,11	1 Jamestown	Beal
	"	19	1 Jamestown	Beal



Vol. 31, No. 1 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Robin	Dec.	1-13	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	3	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	4,26	2,1 Belmont	Burtons
	"	8	1 Jamestown	Beal
	"	13	17 White Chapel Cemetery, Town of Tonawanda	A. Freitag
	"	18,19	2,1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Cedar Waxwing	"	6-31	1-150 Belmont (maximum count for the month)	Burtons
Northern Shrike	Dec.	1-31	1-4 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	5,12,19	1,2,2 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	22	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	24	1 Grand Island	Freitags
	"	26,27,31	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Myrtle Warbler	"	24	1 Beaver Island St. Park	Freitags
E. Meadowlark	"	6	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	10	1 Chippawa, Ont.	Freitags
	"	13,26	4,1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Red-w. Blackbird	"	1-31	1-6 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	9	1 Williamsville (f)	Wendlings
	"	10	2 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	23	25 Belmont	Burtons
			(maximum count for the month)	
	Dec.	27	1 Kiantone	Beal
Rusty Blackbird	"	14	1 Belmont	Burtons
Common Grackle	"	1	12 Hamburg (f)	Bourne
	"	1,2,4	1-2 Belmont	Burtons
	"	7,8,18	1 Hamburg (f)	Bourne
	"	9	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	19	1 Williamsville (f)	Wendlings
	"	20	5 Williamsville (f)	Mitchell, Peters
	"	20,25	1 Hamburg (f)	Bourne
	"	31	1 Grand Island	Freitags
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1-31	5-27 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	1-31	22 Hamburg (f)	Andrles
	"	1-31	2-25 Belmont	Burtons
	"	7	1 Hamburg (f)	Bourne
	"	27	1 Kiantone	Beal
	"	28	2 Williamsville (f)	Wendlings
Purple Finch	"	1-20	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	10	5 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Freitags
	"	6	1 Belmont	Burtons
Rufou-sided Towhee	"	9	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	14-31	1 Rensch Rd., Amherst	Rosche, Gellerman
	"	26	1 Belmont	Burtons
Field Sparrow	"	4	1 Hamburg (f)	Bourne
White-cr. Sparrow	"	1-31	4-6 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	2	1 Belmont	Burtons
	"	14	1 Chippawa, Ont.	Folemsbee
	"	29,31	2,1 Belmont	Burtons
White-thr. Sparrow	"	1-31	7-8 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	31	3 Fluvanna	Beal, Sundell
Fox Sparrow	Dec.	5-15	1 Rensch Rd., Amherst	Rosche, Gellerman
Swamp Sparrow	Dec.	3-25	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells

Vol. 31, No. 1 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Song Sparrow	Dec.	24	10 Belmont	Burtens
			(maximum count for the month)	

Addenda to 1964 Records:

<u>Dickcissel</u>	Apr.	13	1 Newfane	Lehrers
<u>Pine Grosbeak</u>	Mar.	14	1 Youngstown Cemetery	Seeber et al

Addendum to 1963 Records:

Lapland Longspur	Oct.	5	6 Pt.Breeze (Orleans Co.)	Brownstein et al
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Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded:	270
Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue:	1
Total for 1964:	271

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STATISTICIANS' NOTE

Statements in some popular field guides concerning the identification of Oregon Juncos are misleading, resulting in many erroneous reports of this species. A correct and adequate field identification distinguishing an Oregon Junco from **rac**es of the Slate-colored Junco and from hybrids must be based not only on the sharp line of demarcation between the colors of the hood and sides, but also on a careful and clear observation that the black or grayish of the back of the head meets the brown of the back in a sharp line of demarcation. Verifying write-ups, of course, should be required to make it very evident that both these demarcations were studied under good circumstances and were seen clearly. The colors of sides, back, and various parts of the hood should also be described as exactly as possible.

The Statisticians believe that the confused and questionable taxonomic status of the hybrids and hybrid-like juncos grouped together under the name Junco hyemalis cismontanus is such that at the present time it would be undesirable for the Prothonotary to publish sight records of this uncertain and controversial so-called subspecies of the Slate-colored Junco. Collected specimens that can be made into museum study skins, however, will be of considerable interest and value. Brown-backed juncos, including ones fitting some of the descriptions presently assigned to J.h.cismontanus, appear to have increased notably in the East during the past decade, and a fairly active birder can now see several or many in the Niagara Frontier Region during an average year.

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1964-65 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN B.O.S. TERRITORY

The following pages present the results of six Christmas Bird Counts taken within the boundaries of the B.O.S. study area, December 26, 1964 through January 2, 1965, as submitted by the Compilers for each count. We acknowledge the cooperation of the Allegany County observers (Scio Count); Dr. Stephen W. Eaton (Olean Count); the Jamestown Audubon Society, Mrs. Elizabeth Pillsbury, Compiler; the Lake Erie Bird Club, Dr. Allen H. Benton, Compiler (Dunkirk Count); and the Buffalo Audubon Society (Hamburg-East Aurora Count). The table is adapted from those published in past years by the Hamilton Naturalists' Club.

	Scio	Olean	Jamestown	Dunkirk	Hamburg- E.Aurora	Buffalo
Date	Jan. 2	Dec.26	Dec.27	Jan.1	Jan.1	Dec.27
Number of observers	77	-	20	7	110	44
Radius Size - miles	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½
Horned Grebe				1		1
D.-cr. Cormorant				1		
Great Blue Heron	1	1				
Whistling Swan			5			
Mallard				6	1	417
Black Duck			9	50	2	821
Pintail						15
American Widgeon						4
Redhead						12
Ring-necked Duck						3
Canvasback				24	79	6325
Greater Scaup					2	241
Common Goldeneye			17	40	163	1916
Bufflehead				54		23
Oldsquaw						28
King Eider						1
White-winged Scoter					2	10
Common Scoter						1
Hooded Merganser						1
Common Merganser				150		3177
Red-br. Merganser						69
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1					
Cooper's Hawk			1		1	
Red-tailed Hawk					13	44
Rough-legged Hawk	2				3	1
Marsh Hawk	1				2	1
Sparrow Hawk			1		20	39
Ruffed Grouse	14	4	5		8	
Ring-n. Pheasant	11		3		275	17
Turkey	9					
Killdeer						1
Glaucous Gull						7
Iceland Gull						
(L.g.glaucoides)						1
(L.g.kumlieni)						1



	Scio	Olean	Jamestown	Dunkirk	Hamburg- E.Aurora	Buffalo
Date	Jan.2	Dec.26	Dec.27	Jan.1	Jan.1	Dec.27
Gr.Black-b. Gull				21		237
Herring Gull	24		31	10	12	16388
Ring-billed Gull			87	500	179	7323
Bonaparte's Gull				4		27
Common Tern						1
Mourning Dove	13	3	9		2	6
Barn Owl					1	
Screech Owl					1	4
Great Horned Owl	1					2
Snowy Owl						3
Belted Kingfisher	7	1			2	
Yellow-sh. Flicker	1				2	4
Pileated Woodpecker		2	1		2	
Red-headed Woodpecker						2
Hairy Woodpecker	64	4	15	1	48	5
Downy Woodpecker	92	13	57	1	139	50
H.Lark (E.a.praticola)	60				7	
Blue Jay	263	42	40	10	302	87
Common Crow	361	3	15	1	666	192
Black-c. Chickadee	406	88	212	3	527	102
Tufted Titmouse			4			1
White-br. Nuthatch	114	18	37		118	32
Red-br. Nuthatch			2		6	
Brown Creeper	8	5	9		15	11
Winter Wren			1			
Robin		1			8	2
Golden-cr. Kinglet			5	1	22	11
Ruby-cr. Kinglet						1
Cedar Waxwing	66	40	9	29	172	35
Northern Shrike					5	2
Starling	930	110	1221	76	1756	21809
House Sparrow	1886	240	539	29	3731	1882
Eastern Meadowlark	1					8
Red-winged Blackbird	4		1			6
Common Grackle	3				7	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	25	3	1		21	38
Cardinal	89	2	27	1	78	27
Evening Grosbeak	6					
Purple Finch	1		1		2	6
Pine Siskin	2					2
American Goldfinch	22	77	35		91	10
Rufous-sided Towhee			1		1	
Slate-c. Junco	326	17	90	6	438	23
Oregon Junco			3		3	
Tree Sparrow	544	58	196		366	224
Field Sparrow	2					

	Scio	Olean	Jamestown	Dunkirk	Hamburg- E.Aurora	Buffalo
Date	Jan.2	Dec.26	Dec.27	Jan.1	Jan.1	Dec.27
White-cr. Sparrow	4		1			4
White-thr. Sparrow		3	5			7
Fox Sparrow			2			
Swamp Sparrow					1	
Song Sparrow	29	6	4	1	16	13
Snow Bunting	85		40			
TOTAL SPECIES	38	23	39	24	47	65
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	5478	741	2742	1027	9318	65818

### ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

#### Report of the Thirty-sixth B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count

Date: December 27, 1964

Area: Centering on Grand Island, including both branches of the Niagara River and adjacent territory, from the gorge below the Falls to Fort Erie and Buffalo.

Weather: Overcast with wind from NNE at 5-25 m.p.h.; temperature 25 to 33 degrees F.; no snow and no ice in ponds, creeks or rivers.

Coverage: 44 observers

#### Territories and Observers:

A. Canada: Rainbow Bridge south to Welland River, and Niagara River west to M.C.R.R., Portage Road and area boundary. - Edward L. Seeber, Wilma Seeber, Joseph Gryzbowski, the Fred Salisburys, Daniel Salisbury.

B. Canada: Welland River south to Black Creek, and The Niagara River west to Queen Elizabeth Way and area boundary. - Mary Louise Emerson, Robert F. Andrle.

C. Canada: Queen Elizabeth Way west to area boundary and south to Bowen Road. - Frank Folemsbee.

D. Canada: Black Creek south to the Peace Bridge, and Niagara River west to Queen Elizabeth Way. - Harold D. Mitchell, Dr. R.L. Sommerville, Robert L. Mansfield.



E. Canada: Bowen Road south to area boundary and east to Queen Elizabeth Way and Niagara River. - Harold and Rachel Axtell.

F. Porter Road, Hyde Park Blvd., Pine Avenue, and Main Street south to Niagara River, including Goat Island, and Cayuga Island and east to Military Road.- William C. Vaughan, Elinor Vaughan, John B. Vaughan.

G. Military Road southeast to N.Y. State Barge Canal, and the Niagara River northeast to area boundary.- Marie Wendling, Margaret Wendling, Gertrude Ruggles.

H. Sheridan Dr. north to N.Y. State Barge Canal, and Niagara River east to area boundary.- Gertrude Webster, Albert J. Wright II, Francis Tilley, Stanley Maciejewski.

J. Sheridan Dr. east and south to area boundary, west to Niagara River.- Richard Stevenson, Gretchen Stevenson, Mary Wolf.

K. Grand Island: West of Stony Point Road, north of Huth and Long Roads to the Niagara River. - Harold Freund.

L. Grand Island: Huth and Long Roads south to Whitehaven Road, and Stony Point Road west to Niagara River.- Anna Mae Bacon, John E. Bacon.

M. Grand Island: East of Stony Point Road and north of Whitehaven Road to the Niagara River.- Sheila Kuhn, Mrs. C.T. Kuhn, Merle Palmiter.

N. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Road, Baseline Road west to Niagara River.- Richard C. Rosche.

O. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Road, Baseline Road east to Niagara River.- Whitney W. Mallam.

P. Grand Island: Love Road south to Spaulding Road, from east branch to west branch of Niagara River.- Frances M. Rew, Frances H. Rathbun.

Q. Grand Island: South of Spaulding Road, all of Beaver Island State Park.- Alice Ulrich, Edward Ulrich, Eli Bliss, Astrid Kodric, Raymond Franz, Mercedeth Lovelace.

Species Recorded: Figures indicate the number of birds seen; letters in parentheses indicate territories where the species was observed when it was seen in three or fewer territories. Figures in the second column indicate the maximum number of birds recorded in the previous thirty-five Christmas Bird Counts.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Horned Grebe	1 (A)	28
Mallard	417	778
Black Duck	821	1922
Pintail	15 (A,F)	80
American Widgeon	4 (A,F)	52
Redhead	12 (D)	255



<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>		<u>Maximum</u>
Ring-necked Duck	3	(F,P)	19
Canvasback	6325		12275
Greater Scaup	241		8950
Common Goldeneye	1916		4885
Bufflehead	23	(D,E)	270
Oldsquaw	28	(B,E,F)	269
King Eider	1	(A)	5
White-winged Scoter	10		20
Common Scoter	1	(A)	4
Hooded Merganser	1	(A)	40
Common Merganser	3177		6636
Red-breasted Merganser	69		1070
Red-tailed Hawk	44		59
Rough-legged Hawk	1	(A)	27
Marsh Hawk	1	(B)	30
Sparrow Hawk	39		106
Ring-necked Pheasant	17		910
Killdeer	1	(D)	5
Glaucous Gull	7	(A)	9
Iceland Gull ( <u>L.g.glaucoides</u> )	1	(A)	6
( <u>L.g.kumlieni</u> )	1	(A)	-
Great Black-backed Gull	237		224
Herring Gull	16388		23827
Ring-billed Gull	7323		9019
Bonaparte's Gull	27	(D,P)	8607
Common Tern	1	(D)	0
Mourning Dove	6	(E)	67
Screech Owl	4	(E)	12
Great Horned Owl	2	(E)	12
Snowy Owl	3	(A,D)	4
Yellow-shafted Flicker	4		8
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	(Q)	12
Hairy Woodpecker	5	(E,O,Q)	19
Downy Woodpecker	50		96
Blue Jay	87		190
Common Crow	192		5030
Black-capped Chickadee	102		361
Tufted Titmouse	1	(P)	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	32		61
Brown Creeper	11		37
Robin	2	(C,F)	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	11		65
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	(Q)	1
Cedar Waxwing	35	(A)	17
Northern Shrike	2	(G,M)	6
Starling	21809		32786
House Sparrow	1882		2577
Eastern Meadowlark	8	(C)	10
Red-winged Blackbird	6		12
Common Grackle	2	(D)	4
Brown-headed Cowbird	38	(B,E,M)	14
Cardinal	27		51

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Purple Finch	6 (A,G)	8
Pine Siskin	2 (A)	9
American Goldfinch	10 (A,E,G)	188
Slate-colored Junco	23	156
Tree Sparrow	224	1044
White-crowned Sparrow	4 (E)	11
White-throated Sparrow	7 (E)	5
Song Sparrow	13	51
TOTAL SPECIES	65	86 (1963)
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	61818	86428 (1959)

Comments: While this years total number of species is down more than 20 from the record high last year, it is still above the average for the 35 years. Only four species reached new highs this year. They were: 1) Great Black-backed Gull which shows the most striking constant rise in numbers of any count species. Prior to 1959 there were never over 100 reported, yet this is the fifth year of the last six when over 100 were reported and the second consecutive year when over 200 were recorded; 2) Cedar Waxwing; 3) Brown-headed Cowbird and 4) White-throated Sparrow which was recorded for the sixth consecutive year while it was only recorded seven times in all the counts up to 1959. Notably absent this year was the Short-eared Owl which has never been missed since 1953. The Common Tern is the only new species added this year bringing the total number of species seen on the thirty-six counts to 128. - Whitney W. Mallam, 545-4th Street, Niagara Falls, New York.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

- Feb. 10 - Florida Birding by Harold D. Mitchell. Illustrated with slides and movies.
- Feb. 24 - Ethology and Field Study of Birds by Miss Joanna Burger of the State University College at Buffalo.
- Mar. 10 - Birding in England - Birding Experiences of Nancie Greenman and Gertrude Webster during the summer and autumn of 1964.
- Mar. 24 - Symposium on Identification of Diurnal Raptors. Assignment of Territories for April Bird Count.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- Feb. 21 - Ontario Plain. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the University Plaza, Buffalo. Leader, James Braunberns (NA 7-2571).
- Mar. 13 - (Saturday) Niagara Loop. Meet 8:00 A.M. at Vermont Street entrance to Peace Bridge. Leader, Mary Louise Emerson (TT 5-0067).
- Mar. 28 - South shore of Lake Erie. Meet 8:00 A.M. at Buffalo City Hall. Leaders, Alice and Edward Ulrich (TF 3-8896).

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler, Richard C. Rosche, 48 Dartmouth Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14215.

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EDITOR: Richard C. Rosche, 48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14215



# The PROTHONOTARY



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Number 2

February  
1965

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## THE MONTH

Although January weather averaged out near normal, with the temperature 0.9 degrees below the mean and precipitation 0.43 inches above, much of the weather was in the form of extremes. The temperature, for example, ranged from minus 4 to 59 degrees above zero. As in December, periods of snow alternated with periods of thawing which produced more days of wet bare ground than is usual in these months. This condition apparently induced an exceptionally large amount of sickness and death among the species of birds that flock densely at feeding stations. In some instances as many as ten or twenty percent of the House Sparrows became sick, and most of these apparently either succumbed directly to the sickness or were caught by predators. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

From a birding viewpoint, this January supplied fewer observations of interest than an average winter month. However, it was not dull. Birders made some unusually large counts of Iceland Gulls. Snowy Owls continued to be seen, though less frequently than in some other recent flight years. There were more than the usual number of reports of Robins, especially about mountain ash trees, and of Cedar Waxwings, especially about multiflora rose hedges. The very large flock of White-crowned Sparrows frequenting the grounds about a former nursery southeast of Newfane, first discovered by John Lehrer, attracted a good deal of attention, and it is likely that there is still no adequate estimate of the total number present. The rarest birds of the month were the Bohemian Waxwing at Belmont and the Harris' Sparrow at Lake View.

A new service, called Dial-a-Bird, was put into effect at the Buffalo Museum of Science by the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. By dialing 896-1271, a caller hears a recording that tells of recent observations of unusual or especially interesting birds which have been reported to ornithologists at the Museum and which they have up to the moment been able to record on the tape. The present arrangement provides for making appropriate changes in the announcements from Mondays through Fridays, as incoming reports seem to warrant.



It is important for B.O.S. members to know that reports to Dial-a-Bird have no relation whatsoever to reports for purposes of scientific record, which still must be sent in writing to the B.O.S. Compiler. Reports sent to or announced on Dial-a-Bird have no permanent or scientific status. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year  
 F - indicates first record for the migration  
 L - indicates last record for the migration  
 (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1961) and its Supplement, has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Horned Grebe	Jan.	1	1 Niagara Falls	Rew, Buck
Pied-billed Grebe	"	18,26	1,1 Wellsville, Belmont	Burtions
D.-cr. Cormorant	"	3	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Brockners et al
	"	9	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Buck
Great Blue Heron	"	22,23,31	1 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	26	1 Belmont	Burtions
Whistling Swan	"	21	5 Dunkirk Harbor	Pillsbury
Ring-necked Duck	"	1	2 near Chippawa, Ont.	Rew, Buck
Canvasback	"	12,13	31 Chaut. L. at Mayville	Swansons
White-w. Scoter	"	5	65 Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
Common Scoter	"	13L	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rosche, Reuthers
Ruddy Duck	"	3L	3 Chautauqua Lake	Swansons
Hooded Merganser	"	3	1 Chautauqua Lake	Swansons
<u>Goshawk</u>	"	8	1 Lake View	Bourne
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	4-31	1-2 Belmont	Burtions
	"	11	1 Wellsville	Burtions
Cooper's Hawk	"	5	1 Belmont	Burtions
	"	31	1 Hamburg (f)	Rosche et al
Red-tailed Hawk	"	4	1 Frewsburg	Beal
	"	10	1 Onoville area	Swansons
Rough-l. Hawk	"	1,5,7	24,2,3 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	2	1 Irving	Rew, Rathbun
	"	3,4,10	1 Derby	Brockners
	"	3,5	1,1 Eden, Lake View	Bourne
	"	3	1 Ellery area	Swansons
	"	6,9	1,1 Boston, Orchard Park	Bourne
	"	9	4 Pletcher Rd., Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	10	10 Olcott to Pt. Breeze	Klabundes
	"	10,15	10,1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	12	1 North Boston	Bourne
	"	17	9 Lewiston to Newfane	Klabundes
	"	17	14 Lakewood to Wilson	Rew et al
	"	17,21	1,24 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	26,30	2,1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	30	2 Frewsburg	Swansons

Vol. 31, No. 2 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Rough-l. Hawk	Jan.	31	9	Lewiston to Newfane	Klabundes et al
Marsh Hawk	"	1,7	1,3	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	2	1	Allegany Rd., Hanover	Rew, Rathbun
	"	3	1	Dunkirk	Brockner
	"	3,5,8,16	1	Belmont	Burtens
	"	12	1	Orchard Park	Bourne
	"	17	1	Queenston, Ont.	Rew et al
	"	24	2	Pletcher Rd., Lewiston	Klabundes
American Coot	"	21	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Pillsbury
Killdeer	"	3	1	Chautauqua Lake	Swansons
	"	9	1	Queenston, Ont.	Klabundes
	"	13	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rosche, Reuthers
Glaucous Gull	"	1	6	Niagara Falls	Rew, Buck
	"	9	2,2	N. Falls, Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	10	2	Fort Niagara	Axtells, Mallam
	"	10	2	Niagara Falls	Rew, Rathbun
	"	10	2,2	N. Falls, Queenston, Ont.	Rosche et al
	"	17	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rosche et al
	"	17	8	Queenston, Ont.	Rew et al
Iceland Gull	"	9	12	N.Falls-Lewiston area	Klabundes
( <u>L.g.glaucoides</u> )	"	10	7	N.Falls-Queenston, Ont.	Rosche et al
	"	10	1	Niagara Falls	Rew, Rathbun
	"	13	3	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rosche, Reuthers
Gr. Black-b. Gull	"	3	26	Dunkirk Harbor	Brockners
				(maximum count for the month)	
Bonaparte's Gull	Jan.	10	2300	Lewiston area	Vaughan
	"	17	3	Queenston, Ont.	Rew et al
Little Gull	"	17L	1	Queenston, Ont.	Rew et al
Common Tern	Jan.	2L	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Rathbun
Mourning Dove	Jan.	1-31	1-27	Belmont	Burtens
	"	1-31	2-12	Williamsville (f)	Wendlings
	"	3	7	Belvidere	Burtens
	"	21	15	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	21	5	Lackawanna	Pillsbury
	"	31	25-30	near Lewiston	Klabundes et al
				(maximum counts for the month)	
Snowy Owl	Jan.	3	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Brockner
	"	5	1	Squaw Island, Buffalo	Andrle, Byron
	"	7-26	1-2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
				(several pellets from these birds were examined at the Buffalo Museum of Science and were found to contain the remains of three House Rats)	
	Jan.	10,13	1,3	Ft. Erie, Ont. area	Rosche et al
	"	17	2	Queenston, Ont.	Rew et al
	"	17,21	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
Long-eared Owl	"	31	1	Evans	Brockner
Short-eared Owl	"	1,5,10	8,7,14	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	10	6	near Pt.Breeze(Orleans County)	Klabundes
	"	10,17	4,1	Bedell Rd.,Grand Island	Rosche et al
	"	15,16,17	1,6,24	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	17	4	Lakewood to Wilson	Rew et al
	"	21,30	9,19	Lyndonville	Smiths
Saw-whet Owl	"	6	1	Hamburg	Bourne
Yellow-sh. Flicker	"	1-31	1	Lewiston	Klabundes



Vol. 31, No. 2 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Yellow-sh. Flicker	Jan.	7	1	Beaver Island St. Park	A. Freitag
"	"	8	1	Batavia	Buckland
"	"	10	1	Maple Rd., Amherst	McKales
"	"	10	1	Newfane	Axtells et al
"	16,31	1	1	Rensch Rd., Amherst	Rosche, Gellermann
"	17	1	1	Hamburg	Bourne
"	19	1	1	near Gasport	Webster
"	24	1	1	Hamburg	Andries
"	31	1	1	Grand Island	McKales
Red-b. Woodpecker	"	19	1	Batavia	Buckland
Red-h. Woodpecker	"	3	1	Transit Bridge	Burtens
"	31	1	1	Fort Niagara	Klabundes et al
Horned Lark	"	17	10	near Wilson	Klabundes
( <u>E.a.alpestris</u> )					
Tufted Titmouse	"	1	1	Grand Island	Rew, Buck
"	6-7	1	1	Springbrook	Danner
"	26,27	2	2	Lewiston	Klabundes
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	31	1	Hamburg	Rosche et al
Mockingbird	"	30	1	near Busti	Pillsbury
"	31	1	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
Robin	"	4-20	15-25	Lewiston	Klabundes
"	5	1	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	10	2	2	Belfast	Burtens
"	10	2	2	Derby	Bourne, Andrie
"	10	26	26	Queenston, Ont.	Ulrichs
"	16	1	1	Rensch Rd., Amherst	Rosche, Gellermann
"	17	8	8	Queenston, Ont.	Rew et al
"	20-31	1-5	1-5	Lewiston	Klabundes
"	24	1	1	Tonawanda	Webster
"	28	1	1	Tillman Rd., Clarence	Wendlings
"	31	1	1	Youngstown Cemetery	Klabundes et al
Cedar Waxwing	"	1-24	2-100	Belmont	Burtens
"	5	175	175	Derby	Bourne
"	10	50	50	Rushford	Burtens
"	15	36	36	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	25	100	100	Springbrook	Danner
"	26	40-50	40-50	Town Line	Webster
(maximum counts for the month)					
Bohemian Waxwing	Jan.	10	1	Belmont	Burtens
Northern Shrike	"	1-16	2	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
"	1,7,10	1,2,1	1,2,1	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	1,17	1	1	Derby	Brockners
"	5	1	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
(feeding on a junco)					
"	Jan.	10	1	Amherst	McKales
"	"	10	1	Onoville area	Swansons
"	16,26,30	1,2,2	1,2,2	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	17	1	1	Ellery Center	Beal
"	21	1	1	Wellsville	Burtens
Myrtle Warbler	"	7	1	Beaver Island St. Park	A. Freitag
E. Meadowlark	"	10	1	near Somerset	Klabundes
"	15,17,21	8,1,4	8,1,4	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	21,22	19,12	19,12	Wellsville	Burtens
"	22	3	3	Boston	Bourne
"	25	1	1	Batavia	Buckland



Vol. 31, No. 2 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

E. Meadowlark	Jan.	26	9 Lyndonville	Smiths
Red-w. Blackbird	"	1-31	1-3 Belmont	Burtens
	"	1-3	2 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	2	68 Allegany Rd., Hanover	Rew, Rathbun
	"	5-31	1 Pt. Stockholm (f)	Swansons
Rusty Blackbird	"	1	1 Belmont	Burtens
	"	15-16	1 Springbrook	Danner
Common Grackle	"	4	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	4-31	4 Williamsville (f)	Wendlings
	"	24-31	1-3 Lewiston	Klabundes
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1-31	2-30 Hamburg (f)	Andrles
	"	1-31	3-30 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	1-31	1-2 Belmont	Burtens
	"	4-31	15-75 Lewiston (f)	Klabundes
	"	29	1 Williamsville (f)	Wendlings
Evening Grosbeak	"	10	1 Queenston, Ont.	Ulrichs
	"	24	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Purple Finch	"	2	2 Derby	Brockners
	"	10	4 Queenston, Ont.	Ulrichs
	"	17	10 Queenston, Ont.	Rew et al
Amer. Goldfinch	"	1-31	1-65 Belmont	Burtens
	"	10	50 Allegany State Park	Swansons
(maximum counts for the month)				
Rufous-s. Towhee	Jan.	1-31	1 Rensch Rd., Amherst (f)	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	2-31	1 Lyndonville (f)	Smiths
	"	10	1 Newfane	Axtells
	"	15	1 Fluvanna	Beal
	"	17	1 Newfane	Klabundes
	"	24	1 Fort Niagara	Klabundes
Field Sparrow	"	1-23	1 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	4	1 Belmont	Burtens
	"	23	1 Pt. Stockholm (f)	Swansons
<u>Harris' Sparrow</u>	"	16	1 Pleasant Ave., Lake View	Andrie
(at feeder of Mr. and Mrs. William Kranz)				
White-cr. Sparrow	Jan.	1-31	5 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	1-31	1-3 Belmont	Burtens
	"	4-31	2-5 Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	10	50 Newfane	Axtells et al
	"	17, 23	75, 100 Newfane	Klabundes
	"	31	75 Newfane	Klabundes et al
White-thr. Sparrow	"	1-31	9 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	15	3 Fluvanna	Beal
	"	21-31	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
Fox Sparrow	Jan.	10	1 Queenston, Ont.	Rew, Rathbun et al
	Jan.	15	1 Fluvanna	Beal
Swamp Sparrow	Jan.	31	1 Hamburg (f)	Rosche et al
Lapland Longspur	"	26	1 Boston	Bourne
Snow Bunting	"	7	175 Wellsville	Burtens
	"	28	50 Batavia	Buckland
	"	30	65 Lyndonville	Smiths
(maximum counts for the month)				

Additional species observed during January: Common Loon, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, American Widgeon, Wood Duck, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, King Eider, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Sparrow Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Horned Lark (E.a.praticola), Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, House Sparrow, Cardinal, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Species, subspecies and hybrids recorded during January 1965: 98

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BERNARD NATHAN

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Editors' Note: The Prothonotary has received permission to reprint the following letter which is of interest to the many friends and associates of the late Bernard Nathan.

---

Old Lyme, Conn.  
Dec. 26, 1964

Dr. Harold D. Mitchell  
238 U.S. Royal Parkway  
Williamsville 21, New York

Dear Harold:

I was distressed to hear about Bernie Nathan's heart attack. I owed a lot to Bernie, for it was he and his family who helped me out the first year when I went to New York to attend art school. I had not even a shoe string with which to start my education and the local YMCA was full up, and that first year the Nathans gave me a room in their already overcrowded apartment.

Bernie showed me my first individuals of many species, and we worked every dump, vacant lot and empty stretch of marsh around the metropolis. At the time he left Brooklyn he was responsible for having got more kids interested in birds than any other one person - mostly through his Boy Scout activities. It is sad when an old contemporary goes, and we certainly were contemporaries -- within a month of the same age.

I am looking forward to seeing the Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region.

Sincerely,

Roger T. Peterson



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESReport of the Eleventh Federation Waterfowl Count for Region 1, January 9-17

The target date for the Eleventh Annual Waterfowl Count of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was January 10, 1965, a week earlier than usual, and most of the observations were made on that day. The winter had been comparatively mild up to that date, and many inland lakes and streams were open. The total count of 23 species and 24,386 individuals was about average. More Whistling Swans, Mallards, Pintails and American Widgeon were recorded than on any previous Waterfowl Count, and Common Mergansers reached the second highest count.

Species Recorded: Figures in parentheses indicate territory numbers where the species was observed.

Common Loon	1 (N)	Canvasback	2721
Horned Grebe	4 (C,F,N)	Scaup	2662
Pied-billed Grebe	1 (N)	C. Goldeneye	6117
Whistling Swan	4 (L)	Bufflehead	270
Mallard	1119	Oldsquaw	989
Black Duck	1670	King Eider	1 (F)
Gadwall	1 (J)	White-w. Scoter	94 (81 in G)
Pintail	39 (25 in O)	Common Scoter	2 (E,F)
Amer. Widgeon	85 (79 in D)	Hooded Merganser	3 (H,I)
Wood Duck	2 (A,P)	Common Merganser	8220
Redhead	153 (D)	Red-br. Merganser	77
Ring-necked Duck	1		

Miscellaneous: Unidentified ducks, 150 (50 of these were scoters). In addition, an Egyptian Goose was seen by the Klabundes at Point Breeze, where Oak Orchard Creek enters lake Ontario. Two of this species were seen a week or more previous in the same area, but we do not know what may have happened to the second bird. Since many Egyptian Geese are kept in zoos and aviaries in this country it seems almost certain that the birds were escapes. At Dunkirk Harbor Richard Miga reported a Double-crested Cormorant, the first for the Waterfowl Count. Stephen Eaton found no waterfowl whatever on the Allegany River, although he observed the area as far as the Kinzua Dam.

Territories and Observers: The territories and observers follow, with those whose names are underlined being responsible for the coverage of the territory. Dates of observations are January 10 unless shown in parentheses.

- A - Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo - Dr. Arthur Freitag
- B - Niagara River (American side), Buffalo to Goat Island - Frances M. Rew,  
Frances Rathbun, David Thompson, Harold Mitchell
- C - Niagara River (American side), bottom of Niagara Falls north to Fort  
Niagara - William C. Vaughan
- D - Niagara River (Canadian side), Lake Erie north to top of Niagara Falls -  
Richard C. Rosche et al (re-checked on Jan. 13)
- E - Niagara River (Canadian side), bottom of Niagara Falls north to Lake  
Ontario - Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ulrich, Marie Wendling
- F - Lake Ontario, south shore from Ft. Niagara to Olcott - Dr. and Mrs. Harold  
H. Axtell, Whitney Mallam

- G - Lake Ontario, south shore from Olcott to Point Breeze - Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde
- H - Niagara River from Grand Island - Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Seeber, Arthur Schaffner, Joanna Berger
- I - Lake Erie, south shore from Buffalo to Eighteen Mile Creek - Robert F. Andrie, Thomas L. Bourne, C.J. Andrie
- J - Lake Erie, south shore from Eighteen Mile Creek to Dunkirk - James Braunberns (Jan. 9)
- K - Lake Erie, south shore from Dunkirk to State Line - Richard Miga, Lewis Kibler, Phil Lenna
- L - Chautauqua Lake and vicinity - Mrs. Russell Pillsbury et al
- M - Allegheny River area - Stephen W. Eaton
- N - Rushford and Cuba Lakes, Upper Genesee River - Mr. and Mrs. Lou L. Burton
- O - Oak Orchard Refuge and vicinity - Ollie Meddaugh
- P - Williamsville (feeding station) - Margaret Wendling
- Q - Wehrle Drive Quarry and Thruway Pond - Carl Mrozek

All of the territories were covered, and I thank all those who took part in the Count for their assistance. - Harold D. Mitchell, 238 West Royal Parkway, Buffalo, New York 14221.



ANNUAL WINTER WATERFOWL COUNTS  
REGION 1  
1955 - 1964

Compiled by Harold D. Mitchell

Species	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Common Loon	1				1	1				
Red-thr. Loon						1				
Red-n. Grebe	2					1				
Horned Grebe			2			5	1	5		8
Pied-b. Grebe	2	2	6			1				1
Whistling Swan	1									1
Canada Goose						4			2	
Mallard	344	733	503	183	740	480	297	248	447	728
Black Duck	317	1808	1389	1071	904	1520	2297	1147	992	1172
Gadwall		1	1			2		2	1	
Pintail	3	25	12		3	35		3	15	2
Green-w. Teal					2			3	2	1
Amer. Widgeon						19		8	6	
Wood Duck										1
Redhead	48	272	77	61	5	194	14	25	78	162
Ring-n. Duck		1	1	1		2			1	4
Canvasback	11143	15196	8594	15372	1275	9772	4407	4270	3641	4333
Scaup	3390	4379	3878	4712	6168	9066	3763	4349	3504	3133
Common Goldeneye	3067	4938	4084	2550	3332	6864	4572	7361	4220	3535
Barrow's Goldeneye						1				
Bufflehead	42	336	304	60	128	79	41	178	304	141
Oldsquaw	48	5017	2860	5428	2824	2460	980	3975	2500	2308
King Eider			12			3	1		1	5
White-w. Scoter	187	14	13	3		14	4	50	16	52
Surf Scoter	1		2			1				
Common Scoter						4		2		
Ruddy Duck	1	2	2					2		
Hooded Merganser	4	8	3		4	4	2	5	3	7
Common Merganser	4951	2810	4553	466	1044	15192	2165	6400	1072	3120
Red-br. Merganser	72	74	159	299	81	448	136	78	91	521
Smew						1				
Amer. Coot	5	3	3	6		1	2	2		
unidentified	336	439	2836	646	500	5	2005	80		
TOTALS	23964	36058	29294	30828	17064	46200	20687	28200	16900	19237

Report of Field Trip to Ontario Plain - January 30, 1965

Fourteen members enjoyed a bright, snappy wintry day which started with the temperature near zero. But the birds cooperated nicely and none of us minded the cold.

Over the Niagara River at Lewiston, five Glaucous Gulls and one Iceland Gull were seen in the air at one time together with several hundred gulls predominantly Herring Gulls with a few Ring-billed and Great Black-backed Gulls and a single Bonaparte's. Ducks in this area included a few each of Black Ducks, Goldeneyes, Greater Scaup, Oldsquaw and Common and Red-breasted Mergansers. Ice covered 80-90% of the river. In the Village everyone enjoyed the Mockingbird in the yard of the Clark's on Fourth Street.

Down River Road at Johnston's Fudge Stand a group of 25-30 Mourning Doves were very active to make sure they would be counted. A Red-headed Woodpecker was the sole performer near the entrance to Ft. Niagara. The river was completely covered with ice. However, about 75 Goldeneyes were seen off the lake shore near the Youngstown Sewage Disposal Plant. At Four Mile Creek State Park a large group (50-75) of Slate-colored Juncos and several Pheasants were working over the orchard area. A stop at Oakland Rural Cemetery (Youngstown Cemetery) only yielded two Black-capped Chickadees and a Downy Woodpecker. But a Robin seen across the road on the barren snow of the golf course made the stop especially worthwhile.

Returning inland between Porter-Center Rd. and Creek Rd. four Red-tailed Hawks and nine Rough-legged Hawks were seen hunting over the fields. Five of the latter were working over a fifty-acre area west of Harold Road in Modeltown.

A lunch stop at our home gave everyone a chance to enjoy many of the visitors coming to our yard. Those seen during the hour included: 3-White-crowned Sparrows, 20-Tree Sparrows, 10-Juncos, 4-Cardinals, 3-Blue Jays, 1-White-breasted Nuthatch, 1-White-throated Sparrow, 1-Downy Woodpecker, 1-Robin, 1-Cowbird, 1-Grackle as well as a Starling and several House Sparrows.

After lunch our major objective was Stedman's Nursery area off Hatter Rd. east of Rt. 78 and south of Newfane. On the trip over several small groups of Horned Larks were observed along the roadsides. On the walk out to the "sparrow area" a Short-eared Owl and a Northern Shrike flushed out of the cedar windbreaks. The major flock of sparrows and juncos seen on this trip was smaller than that observed the three previous weekends. Even so the flock of 180 birds included about 50-White-crowned Sparrows. The rest were Tree Sparrows and Juncos. Only one Song Sparrow was seen here compared with a minimum of 25 the week before. Counts of total birds seen in this area on previous visits were 300 and 400.

On our return trip via Lake Rd. half of the party saw a Snowy Owl sitting on a fence post watching two Short-eared Owls hunting over a field at Hulbert Rd. The remainder of the party were rewarded with another Shrike on their return to Buffalo. - Walter and Harriette Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York.



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

- Mar. 24 - Symposium on Identification of Diurnal Raptors. Assignment of territories for April Bird Count.
- Apr. 14 - Report on April Bird Count by Joseph F. Thill. National Audubon Society film, "The Bald Eagle".

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- Mar. 28 - Joint trip with the Buffalo Audubon Society to the Clarence-Newstead Sinks and Oak Orchard area. Meet 8:00 A.M. in front of Ulbrich's at University Plaza, Buffalo. Leader, Marie Wendling(NF 2-6625).

NOTE: This trip takes the place of the one announced for this date in the January 1965 Prothonotary, page 12.

- Apr. 4 - April Bird Count. For assignment of territories please contact the leader, Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Buffalo 14217 (TR 7-7257).
- Apr. 24 - South shore of Lake Erie and inland lakes of Chautaucua County. Meet 8:00 A.M. in front of Hens and Kellys at the L.B. Smith Plaza, Lackawanna. Leader, Frances Rew (TA 2-2342).
- May 16 - May Bird Count. For assignment of territories please contact the leader, Miss Marie Wendling, 87 Garrison Road, Williamsville 14221 (NF 2-6625).

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler, Richard C. Rosche, 48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. 14215

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092

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EDITOR: Richard C. Rosche, 48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14215





# The PROTHONOTARY

Volume 31  
Number 3

March  
1965



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Buffalo, New York

## THE MONTH

February temperature and precipitation at the Buffalo airport were 1.7 degrees and 0.27 inches above normal. Toward the end of the first week the deep snow blanket in the vicinity of Buffalo began to disappear, and during the last two weeks the ground was largely bare most of the time.

As in the previous parts of the winter, there continued to be more than the usual number of reports of Flickers, Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and White-crowned Sparrows. A brief and light, but definite movement of Purple Finches occurred about the second week in the month, presumably birds coming down from farther north when the arboreal seed supply there approached depletion. The birds that excited the most general interest were the Mute Swans, the wintering Dunlins, and the Bald Eagles. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1961) and its Supplement, has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Horned Grebe	Feb.	28	1 Chautauqua Lk. Outlet	Clark, Bosserman
	"	28	1 Dunnville, Ont.	Rosche et al
* <u>Mute Swan</u>	"	27	3 Pt. Breeze (Orleans Co.)	Brownstein et al
Whistling Swan	"	1-28	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	14	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Brownstein et al
*Canada Goose	"	20	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Pillsbury et al

Vol. 31, No. 3 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Gadwall	Feb.	6	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew et al
"	"	11	3 Dunkirk Harbor	Brownstein
Redhead	"	28	85 Chautauqa Lk. Outlet	Clark, Bosserman
Ring-necked Duck	"	14	1 Nia. River, West Branch	Brownstein et al
Hooded Merganser	"	6	3 Belmont	Burtions
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	3,7	1,2 Wellsville, Belmont	Burtions
"	"	8-28	1 Belmont	Burtions
Cooper's Hawk	"	20	1 North Boston	Bourne
Rough-l. Hawk	"	6,13,14	2,5,3 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	11	1 Eden	Bourne
"	"	20,21	8,1 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	20,21	4 Ontario Plain	Klabundes
"	"	27,28	1,2 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	28	15 South Cayuga, Ont.	Rosche et al
"	"	28	1 Almond	Burtions
*Bald Eagle	"	9	1 Navy Island, Ont.	Websters
"	"	11	1 Navy Island, Ont.	Freitag, Rathbun
(immatures)				
Feb.	12		1 Orchard Park	Bourne
(adult)				
Feb.	14		1 Willoughby, Ont.	Brownstein et al
(immature)				
Marsh Hawk	Feb.	13,27	1 Pletcher Rd., Lewiston	Klabundes
"	"	14	1 Belmont	Burtions
"	"	14,17,20	3,2,1 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	21,28	1,2 Lyndonville	Smiths
*Gray Partridge	"	28	7 South Cayuga, Ont.	Rosche et al
*Turkey	"	1	1 Wellsville	Burtions
American Coot	"	6	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew et al
*Dunlin	Feb.	6	2 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew et al
	Feb.	28	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Clark, Bosserman
Glaucous Gull	Feb.	6	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew et al
"	"	11	1 Beaver Island St. Park	Freitag, Rathbun
"	"	11	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Brownstein
Bonaparte's Gull	"	6	3 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew et al
Mourning Dove	"	1-4	16-24 Belmont	Burtions
"	"	6	9 North Boston	Bourne
"	"	14	7 Belmont	Burtions
"	"	27	24 Lyndonville	Smiths
(maximum counts for the month)				
*Gr. Horned Owl	Feb.	1	1 Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	7-28	2 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	21	1 Newfane	Klabundes
Snowy Owl	"	6	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew et al
"	"	6,13,14	1,1,2 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	9-28	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	"	17,20	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	18	1 Eden	Bourne
"	"	19	1 near Olcott	Websters
"	"	26	1 Batavia	Buckland
Short-eared Owl	"	6,7,20	15,1,5 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	27	19 Ontario Plain	Brownstein, Dorst
"	"	27,28	4,6 Lyndonville	Smiths
Belted Kingfisher	"	19	1 Allegany State Park	Rew, Rathbun
Yellow-sh. Flicker	"	6,20	1 Lyndonville	Smiths



Vol. 31, No. 3 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Yellow-sh. Flicker	Feb.	11	2 Beaver Island St. Park	Freitag, Rathbun
"	"	20	2 Fredonia	Swanson
"	"	20	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
"	"	21	1 Somerset	Brownstein, Dorst
"	"	21	2 Oak Orchard	Brownstein, Dorst
"	"	21	1 Rensch Rd. Amherst (f)	Rosche, Gellermann
"	"	25	1 Batavia	Buckland
Red-b. Woodpecker	"	19	1 Batavia (f)	Webster
Red-h. Woodpecker	"	7	3 Fort Niagara	Klabundes
Horned Lark	"	27	2 Lake View	Bourne
( <u>E.a.alpestris</u> )				
Tufted Titmouse	"	15,20,23	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	19	1 Allegany State Park	Rew, Rathbun
Mockingbird	"	6	1 near Shadigee	Smiths
"	"	8	1 Rensch Rd., Amherst	Rosche
"	"	9	1 Athol Springs	Csont
Robin	"	1-28	1-6 Lewiston	Klabundes
"	"	4	4 Grand Island	Brownstein
"	"	7	1 Kenmore	Websters
"	"	7	2 Williamsville	Wendlings
"	"	7	1 Derby	Brownstein
"	"	11-28	1 Belmont (f)	Burtions
"	"	13,27	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	15	1 near Portageville	Nortons
"	"	18	1 North Evans	Bourne
"	"	19	1 Allegany State Park	Rew, Rathbun
"	"	20,28	8,2 Scio	Burtions
"	"	21	20 Belvidere	Burtions
"	"	28	8 Almond	Burtions
*Hermit Thrush	"	8	1 Eden	Bourne
*Eastern Bluebird	"	27	1 Wanakah	Bourne
Cedar Waxwing	"	1-15	30-40 Town Line	Webster
"	"	1-17	1-54 Belmont	Burtions
"	"	9	60 Marilla	Danner
"	"	14,25	40-50 Lewiston	Klabundes
"	"	21	60 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	28	65 Almond	Burtions
"	"	28	15 West Almond	Burtions
(maximum counts for the month)				
Northern Shrike	Feb.	4	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	"	6,13,14	3,1,1 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	7	1 Sturgeon Point	Brownstein
"	"	7	1 Grand Island	Brownstein
"	"	9	1 Boston	Bourne
"	"	14	1 Port Colborne, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	19	2 Allegany State Park	Rew, Rathbun
"	"	20,28	2 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	27	2 Ontario Plain	Brownstein et al
"	"	27	1 Derby	Bourne
Myrtle Warbler	"	9	1 Pt. Stockholm	Swanson
E. Meadowlark	"	4	6 Carmen Rd., Middleport	Thill
"	"	13	3 Friendship	Burtions
"	"	27	4 Lyndonville	Smiths
Red-w. Blackbird	"	1-6,7	2,1 Belmont	Burtions
"	"	7,28	1,10 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells

Vol. 31, No. 3 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Red-w. Blackbird	Feb.	11	2 Eden	Bourne
Rusty Blackbird	"	23,24	3 Lewiston	Klabundes
Common Grackle	"	1	8 Wellsville	Burtens
	"	11	1 Grand Island	Freitag, Rathbun
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1-28	5-10 Lewiston (f)	Klabundes
	"	1-28	1-9 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
Evening Grosbeak	"	9,13,14	5,1,1 Friendship	Nortons
	"	26	12 Richburg	Jacoby
Purple Finch	"	6,7	1,2 Wellsville	Burtens
	"	6-11	1-7 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	20,23	4,3 Scio	Burtens
	"	28	1 Almond	Burtens
Rufous-s. Towhee	"	1-28	1 Lyndonville (f)	Smiths
	"	1-28	1 Rensch Rd., Amherst (f)	Rosche, Gellermann
Field Sparrow	Feb.	28	1 Chautauqua Lk. Outlet	Clark, Bosserman
White-cr. Sparrow	Feb.	1-28	1-2 Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	1-28	4-5 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	1-28	3-5 Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	14	55 Newfane	Mitchell et al
	"	21	75 Hatter Road, Newfane	Klabundes
White-thr. Sparrow	"	1-28	3-9 Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	1-28	1-2 Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	9	1 Eden	Bourne
Swamp Sparrow	"	28	3 Chautauqua Lk. Outlet	Clark, Bosserman
Song Sparrow	"	28	8 Chautauqua Lk. Outlet	Clark, Bosserman
Lapland Longspur	"	9	4 Boston	Bourne
	"	27	26 Town of Somerset	Brownstein et al
Snow Bunting	"	1,3	100,50 Wellsville	Burtens
	"	4	50 Carmen Rd., Middleport	Thill
	"	5	35 Lake View	Bourne
	"	5	60 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	20	500 near Stockton	Pillsbury et al
	"	28	50 South Cayuga, Ont.	Rosche et al

(maximum counts for the month)

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded: 98  
 Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue: 9  
 Total for 1965: 107

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STATISTICIANS' NOTES

1. The Statisticians will be glad to explain why any particular verification write-up was rejected if asked in the Humboldt Room immediately before or after a Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting (or by letter from out-of-town members), and they will welcome discussion of the verification system of the Society at any time.

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TWO RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNA OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION

Richard Brownstein and Joanna Burger

The latter half of 1964 saw the addition of two species of birds never heretofore satisfactorily recorded in the southern Ontario - Western New York area: the American Avocet (Recurvirostra americana), and the Rock Wren (Salpinctes obsoletus). According to the Check-list of North American Birds (1957: 209), the former species occurs rarely or casually east of the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Coast, while the status of the latter in the same publication is classified as accidental east of central Oklahoma and eastern Kansas (p. 422).

The Avocet was observed at Fort Erie, Ontario between Old Fort Erie and Waverly Beach on August 8, 1964 by Richard Brownstein, Carl Mrozek and Arthur Schaffner (Prothonotary 30:81). Although there are several allusions to this species in the local ornithological literature of the late nineteenth century (e.g. Bergtold's The Birds of Buffalo and Vicinity), the lack of verifiable material substantiating these records necessarily precludes their acceptance by modern standards. The same applies to a specimen located in Sweden and attributed to this area, for which there is no satisfactory proof as to its origin. The acceptance of the recent Fort Erie record is based solely on the written memoranda of the observers, whose reports are now in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

The Rock Wren has been officially recorded twice east of the Mississippi River, once in Illinois and once in Michigan, according to the fifth edition of the A.O.U. Check-list (p. 422). A third record, that of a bird taken near Memphis, Tennessee is too recent for the above publication, but has been published in Audubon Field Notes (11:272).

Now a fourth such record, the easternmost of all and the first for the Province of Ontario, has been established by the following events. On December 5, 1964 Dan Salisbury, Carl Mrozek and the authors found a Rock Wren frequenting a long, boulder-strewn jetty at the entrance to the Welland Canal at Port Weller, Ontario. An unsuccessful attempt to collect the bird was made within the hour. Thereupon, members of the staff of the Buffalo Museum of Science were notified, and on the following day the specimen was secured by Robert F. Andrle and Arthur Clark (Prothonotary 31:3).

The Rock Wren is a bird of the rocky barrens, talus slopes and eroded badlands of the far west. It is seldom found east of its breeding range, which extends from central-southern British Columbia, southern Alberta, southwestern Saskatchewan and western North Dakota south, east of the coastal ranges, to Mexico and Western Texas. The Port Weller specimen has proven to be the nominate race (S.o.obsoletus). It is now in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology at Toronto. - 207 Hartford Road, Buffalo, New York and Department of Biology, State University College at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September through June inclusive.

- Apr. 14 - Report on April Bird Count by Joseph F. Thill. National Audubon Society film, "The Bald Eagle".
- Apr. 28 - "Birding Experiences in the West and Techniques of Bird Photography" by Richard Freitag
- May 12 - "Birders Big-Day", a taped program. Plans for the May Bird Count by Marie Wendling

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- Apr. 24 - South shore of Lake Erie and inland lakes of Chautauqua County. Meet 8:00 A.M. in front of Hens and Kelly at the L.B. Smith Plaza, Lackawanna. Leader, Frances Rew (TA 2-0342).
- May 16 - May Bird Count. For assignment of territories please contact the leader, Miss Marie Wendling, 87 Garrison Road, Williamsville 14221 (NF 2-6625).
- May 23 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Whimbrels. Leaders, Harold and Rachel Axtell. Details to be announced later.

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## SECTIONAL DIVISION #11

Buffalo and its suburbs provide a diverse range of habitats by the overlapping of the western edge of the Atlantic flyway and the eastern edge of the Mississippi flyway, which in migration brings us birds from the arctic areas and northern, central and eastern Canada.

There is also a wide range of climatic conditions. In the winter the temperature may be as low as 20 degrees below zero for a night or two but normally ranges from 10 to 30 degrees above zero. In summer it may be as high as 90 degrees for a few days but generally is 60 to 80 degrees. The springs are wet and cool and the falls are sunny and dry.

Section #11 is a flat country of about 190 square miles., about 50 of which makes up the City of Buffalo and its harbor. Sea level is about 571 ft. at the lake, while the highest point in the city at Treehaven and Croy is 298 ft.

This section can be divided into 4 parts: -- the N.E. corner of Lake Erie and Upper Niagara River; the principal creeks; the principal parks and the gradual transition to rural areas along its eastern boundary, Transit Rd. or Rt. #78 and the southern boundary, Rt. 20-A or Big Tree Rd.

A portion of the lake shore is unavailable for birding because of industrial plants or railroad tracks.

3N Lasalle Park -- at the foot of Porter Ave. extending to the hydroplane landing -- look for ducks in the vegetation along the breakwall, in the canal and in the river beyond it. Snowy Owls are often found on any part of the breakwall in winter.

Beyond the s. end of the inner wall a bit of sand beach is visible against the outer wall -- here one may find Ring-b. Gulls and Common Terns, even nesting in season. On the land areas among the trees, shrubs, and grasses many species can be found in their season and here such rare birds as jaeger and smew have been seen.

3 MN Peace Bridge -- provides a nightly roost for 10-15,000 Starlings which start coming in around sunset time. A good point to view this flight is under the approach to the Peace Bridge.

3 M Bird Island -- turn west on Ferry St. from Niagara St., cross lift bridge over the canal, turn right along the canal where many gulls and terns may be seen in season, go through the open gate onto the grounds of the Buffalo Sewage Disposal Plant which are generously planted with a variety of shrubs and evergreens attractive to many species of birds; drive around the buildings and you are at the river a close view of Common Terns, Ring-b. and Herring Gulls, and several species of ducks may be seen. Numerous Bonaparte's Gulls and occasionally a Little Gull and/or a Forster's Tern are seen in the fall. By going through the second gate, one can study the multitude of gulls feeding on the city dump. In winter Glaucous and Iceland Gulls may occasionally be found.

At the other end (s.) of Bird Island the inner breakwall begins. From here one has a broad view of the river for observing waterbirds. At times, areas of the wall are literally covered with a multitude of gulls among which a Little Gull, Forster's or Caspian Tern may be found. In the early fall, a walk along this wall may bring one at close range with several species of shorebirds.



2 J Strawberry Island - in the river off Sheridan Dr. is a favorite feeding ground for ducks in fall and winter and with a spottingscope one may observe Common and Red-br. Mergansers, Blacks and Mallards, Goldeneye, Scaup and some less numerous species.

7 F Ellicott Creek Park - is not notable for birding but Island Park in Tonawanda Creek, a short distance to the n. is good, especially in migration and in winter for Golden-cr. Kinglets, finches, etc.

5 L Forest Lawn Cemetery - The best birding in the cemetery centers around "The Ridge", 2 ponds, and Scajaquada Creek. These areas are reached most easily from the Main St. entrance at Delevan Ave. As you enter the gate turn right to the creek, then turn left with the creek on your right and a high bank covered with trees, shrubs and ivy on the left; this area is well worth looking over. Continue straight on this drive to a shrub-bordered lake (pond) on the left -- the trees and shrubs around this lake are excellent for migrating warblers and other small passerines; 75 to 100 ft. to the right is the Scajaquada Creek which takes a sharp turn towards the chapel - in early spring a walk along here may produce a Winter Wren, Spotted Sandpiper or Green Heron; from the turn, the creek bank rises in a steep, wooded slope to the top of "The Ridge" -- here thrushes, sparrows and many other species may be observed.

Continue along the same road taking the next two right turns and you are now between the creek and the lagoon (2nd. pond) with "The Ridge" rising from the creek ahead and circling around the lagoon area. The area around the lagoon is excellent for many species; the blossoming cherry trees attract Baltimore Orioles, Rose-br. Grosbeaks, Hummingbirds, etc. Both sides of the creek but especially the area of trees and shrubs which surround the mausoleums provide for a variety of birds. The resident Mallards and Black Ducks are often joined in winter by Wood Ducks, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Green-winged Teal and others. THIS is the best birding area in the cemetery and should all be covered on foot.

Take a road going down the hill, turn left on the road along the creek (do not cross), continue past the chapel and look over the large trees in the chapel grounds. Cross the creek ahead, turn left and then right and you are at the Main Street exit or entrance.

5 L Delaware Park - (separated from Forest Lawn Cemetery by Delaware Ave.) The best birding in this park centers around the "Stone-arch Bridge". To reach this area, enter from Rumsey Rd. by a cinder path opposite Windsor Ave. Paths radiate from this bridge to all parts of the park including the rose garden and the lake. The shrubs which border the paths, the adjacent trees and the ground cover furnish ample food and shelter for passing migrants and the resident nesting birds. For waterfowl look over the surface of the lake. At this time an ungraded dirt fill at the lake border has a dense cover of weeds which attract many sparrows in fall.

F thru H -- 11,12,13 - Open fields and small woodlots for birding are mostly confined to the e. and ne. part of the Section. Some areas that used to be good are now overrun with industry and Suburbia. There is still one fair area. Starting at Maple and Hopkins Rds. (H-11), travel north over Hopkin which takes one through Bear Swamp (between Klein and Dodge Rds.). Continue north to the Tonawanda Creek Rd. (10B), turn left (w.) and watch for sparrows in the fields, Short-eared Owls, woodcock, etc. along this road back to Niagara Falls Boulevard. - Arthur F. Freitag, 1000 Kensington Avenue, Buffalo, New York.



## SECTIONAL DIVISION #12

Section 12 covers about 285 square miles of territory in central and eastern Erie, small segments of southwest Genesee, and northwest Wyoming Counties. The lowest elevation of 660' occurs in Depew at Broadway and Transit, rising to its highest point of 1660' near Varysburg just above Cooper Road. The habitat varies widely; densely populated villages of Depew, Lancaster, Alden, Corfu, Attica, Varysburg and East Aurora are separated by cultivated and abandoned farms, reforested hillsides, thorn-filled pastures, extensive swamps and old woods. Among the last are found stands of beech, birch, locust and maple, as well as considerable hemlock and pine. The west, central and northeast areas belong to the Erie Plain. In the southeast from Alden to East Aurora the elevation rises from the Erie Plain onto the Allegany Plateau, characterized by glacial debris and fill of sand, gravel, and clay. These form rounded hills without any pronounced deep gorges.

The section is drained by the five major creeks, Ellicott, Cayuga, Buffalo, Cazenovia and Tonawanda, together with such tributaries as Murder, Plum Bottom, and Little Buffalo. Generally they flow in a northwesterly direction from the hills of the Allegany Plateau to the Erie Plain, cutting post-glacial gorges which expose interesting geological history.

Two parks are included, Como (G-3) and Sinking Ponds (O-6). Where Cayuga Creek has carved out a deep and wide ravine, part tangle and thicket, part open to the sun, Como Park attracts such a variety of birds at all seasons that those who know it well consider it the Number One spot in the whole section. Screech and Horned Owls are permanent residents, Red Crossbills nested in the spring of 1964, and herons, flycatchers, thrushes, and sparrows are abundant summer residents. Spring migration is particularly rewarding in warblers and thrushes.

Sinking Ponds is a nature sanctuary maintained by the East Aurora Garden Club. Among its cat-tail swamps, open fields, and wet woods American Bittern, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, cuckoos, woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, Scarlet Tanager, vireos, blackbirds and sparrows nest. One may drive through the gate on the left past cat-tails, park the car, and walk along the indicated paths. Beyond the Filtration Plant a marked trail follows the edge of a pond where migrant waterfowl congregate in spring. This path divides: the right ascends a wooded hillside where vireos and thrushes nest; the left continues along the low wet margin where Wood Duck have been observed.

Beyond Darien City (F-19) lies a secluded spot called Lost World. Follow the Attica Road about four miles until gravel banks appear on the left (G-20). Just before the railroad crossing look for a private road that leads up and over the banks. (In 1964 a chain barred passage so it was necessary to park the car and walk.) Undisturbed by the busy thoroughfare only a few rods away, Lost World lives up to its name. A wagon track cuts through wet woods where Woodcock and Northern Waterthrush have been found. Particularly alive during spring migration, it also provided breeding places for woodpeckers, flycatchers, Bank Swallows, thrushes and sparrows. Yellow Warbler, Yellowthroat and Redstart are among the nesting warblers.

### Coordinates

C-2            Genesee Street at Ellicott Creek Bridge - shorebirds in May and August; along path to the right Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, warblers and sparrows during migration

- D-2 S. Harris Hill Road just before crossing Ellicott Creek bridge, turn right on Haskell Road to the Catholic Cemetery. Walk along hedges and in wet woods - excellent all year.
- C,D-6,7 Ransom Road bridge over Ellicott Creek - thicket on right good for migrating warblers, also winter birds. Turn left on Schlemmer Road for flycatchers, vireos, finches in summer; flocks of robins have wintered here for several years
- E-4-7 Drive east on Walden (formerly Ellicott), south on Cemetery, Pavement, Ransom, Town Line Roads - excellent for Woodcock, snipe, Upland Plover, Bobolink, meadowlarks, sparrows, especially Henslow's and Grasshopper.
- G-13 County Line, Seven Day Roads - hilly fields, farm ponds - good for migrant waterfowl and shorebirds
- A-17,18 Extensive cat-tail swamps flooded in spring - excellent for migrant waterfowl, blackbirds
- A-18,19 Turn south on Ellenwood (east of Colby) - wet woods beside Murder Creek - spring migrants, many breeding birds
- G-O-20,21 Tonawanda Creek marshes on west side of Route 98 - spring migrants, waterfowl, summer breeding birds; Lost World (G-20) - see page 1. Look for Loggerhead Shrike on third-class roads.
- H-18 Lake Akron - migrating waterfowl, including Whistling Swan, Canada Goose; many nesting species in woods bordering path to Lake. Permission of the caretaker should be secured before entry.
- J-M-13-16 At Cowlesville turn onto Folsomdale Road, then left onto Schoelkopf Road - excellent any season; bluebirds were seen in 1964 fall count.
- K-10 Open fields good for winter finches; breeding sparrows in summer, also bobolinks and meadowlarks
- M-9 Two Rod-Jamison Roads - Western Meadowlark for several seasons; migrating pipits and horned larks; Lapland Longspurs in winter
- K-O, 2,3 Rice, Bowen, Willardshire, Northrup and North Davis Roads - deep ravines, wet woods fed by springs, wide creekbed of Cazenovia, thickets, open fields - Green Heron, American Bittern, all seven woodpeckers, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, occur in North Davis area. Summer residents - six flycatchers, four thrushes, waxwings, vireos including Yellow-throated, and a good representation of finch-sparrows; excellent movement of warblers during both spring and fall migration in woods along creek. - Marie Wendling, 87 Garrison Road, Williamsville and Gertrude Webster, 198 Marjorie Drive, Kenmore, New York.



# The PROTHONOTARY

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## THE MONTH

March precipitation was 1.27 inches below normal; temperature was 1.5 degrees below. Though the first nine days were warm, during the last three weeks only two days were above normal. Bird migration was considerably retarded. Finally, however, typical March migrants began to arrive in somewhat increased numbers during the last few days of the month even though temperatures remained well below normal. The 28th was especially notable for its new arrivals, although it and the night before were unseasonably cold, and an observer might well wonder what factors encouraged such a migration wave. Checking the weather records, we find that this day and the previous night and day had more clear skies and less precipitation than any other two-day period in the previous two weeks. Winds apparently had little to do with it, being from west and east as they were most of the rest of the month, and having a velocity only slightly below the average. (Weather data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

Although it is not our custom to mention reports that have been rejected by the B.O.S. Statisticians, an exception may be warranted in the case of the very small Branta canadensis studied at the Tonawanda Game Management Area on March 28 by several observers, all of whom reported it as B.c.minima, except one who called it a "possible" Cackling Goose. An unbiased but critical reader, having examined the detailed descriptions of this particular bird, can hardly deny the good possibility that it may have been a B.c.minima as this subspecies is understood in concepts that are widely though perhaps tentatively accepted at the present time. In view of the uncertain status of the races of Branta canadensis, however, and the existence of discrepancies and inadequacies that may or may not be considered minor in the verifying reports, the Statisticians have decided that the circumstances do not permit acceptance as a B.O.S. sight record. A future reviewer of the ornithology of this area, however, should not fail to study the generally good verifying write-ups of this bird by Adrian Dorst, Harold D. Mitchell, D.R. Salisbury, and Marie A. Wendling. Perhaps this race will be thought to deserve a "hypothetical" status among the birds of the Niagara Frontier Region. This may depend in part on the results of a more adequate understanding and naming of geographical variations of the Canada Goose, as well as on a critical



judgement by such a reviewer concerning how adequately he can visualize the subspecific characteristics of this bird solely on the basis of the verifying write-ups of it. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year  
 F - indicates first record for the migration  
 L - indicates last record for the migration  
 (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1961) and its Supplement, has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Horned Grebe	Mar.	2,27	1,2 Chaut. L. Outlet	Pillsbury, Swanson
Pied-b. Grebe	"	24F	1 Belmont	Burtons
	"	27	3 Caneadea	Burtons, Palmer
	"	27	2 Chaut. L. Outlet	Pillsbury
Great Blue Heron	"	28F	1,5 Lockport, Newfane	Rosche et al
	"	31	1 Belfast	Burtons
Whistling Swan	"	1-17	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	11,12	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	14	1 Beaver Island St. Park	Freitag
	"	22F	66 Chaut. L. Outlet	Beal
	"	22F	21 over Hamburg	Rosche
	"	22F	20 Peace Bridge area, Bflo.	Axtell
	"	24-28	76-80 Chaut. L. Outlet	Beal
	"	24	70 Chaut. L. Outlet	Pillsbury
	"	24	1 Belmont	Burtons, Palmer
	"	25	7 Buckhorn Island St. Park	Freitag
	"	26,27	80,85 Chaut. L. Outlet	Pillsbury
	"	28	40 over Hamburg	Bourne
	"	28	60 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	28	1 near Busti	Pillsbury
	"	29	46 Chaut. L. Outlet	Beal
	"	31	12 Grand Island	Tulinoffs
Canada Goose	"	3F	3 Lyndonville area	Smiths
	"	5	175 Alma	Burtons
	"	7	1500 Oak Orchard area	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	14	3500 Oak Orchard area	Rosche et al
	"	31	7000 Oak Orchard area	Axtell, Dorr
*Blue Goose	"	17	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	31	1 Tonawanda GMA	Axtell, Dorr
Pintail	"	7F	235 Tonawanda GMA	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	14	850 Tonawanda GMA	Rosche et al
	"	31	400 Oak Orchard area	Axtell, Dorr
*Blue-w. Teal	"	27	2 Belfast	Burtons
American Widgeon	"	31F	8 Jamestown area	Pillsbury
*Shoveler	"	29	4 Frewsburg	Beal
Wood Duck	"	25F	3 Chaut. L. Outlet	Beal



Vol. 31, No. 4 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Wood Duck	Mar.	27	2 Belvidere	Burtens, Palmer
Redhead	"	11	1 Belmont	Burtens
	"	11	152 Niagara River	Mitchell et al
	"	25	350 Chaut. Lake Outlet	Beal
	"	25	100 Ft. Erie, Ont. area	Axtell
(above three counts are maximums for the month indicating a much better flight than has occurred in the past five or more years)				
Ring-necked Duck	Mar.	25F	3 Chaut. Lake Outlet	Beal
	"	29	17 Frewsburg	Beal
*Lesser Scaup	"	25,30	35 Chaut. Lake Outlet	Beal
White-w. Scoter	"	25	1 Chaut. Lake Outlet	Beal
*Turkey Vulture	"	28	1 Oak Orchard	Salisbury, Dorst
	"	28	1 Alabama	Rosche et al
	"	29	1 Wellsville	Burtens
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	18F	2 over Irving	Neels
	"	20,21,24	1 Belmont	Burtens
Cooper's Hawk	"	16F	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	17	1 Wellsville	Burtens
	"	28	1 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	28	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	31	1 Tonawanda GMA	Axtell, Dorr
Red-tailed Hawk	"	18	29 over Irving	Neels
*Red-sh. Hawk	"	2,3	1 Hamburg, Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	18	6 over Irving	Neels
(noticeable influx March 27-28 throughout region)				
Rough-l. Hawk	Mar.	1-31	2-23 Lyndonville area	Smiths
	"	2	1 Kiantone	Pillsbury, Swanson
	"	7	1 Tonawanda GMA	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	7	2 Iroquois NWR	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	11	1 Basom	Freitag, Rathbun
	"	11	1 Scio	Burtens
	"	12	2 Wellsville area	Burtens
	"	14	18 Shadigee area	Rosche et al
	"	16,28	1 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	18	2 over Irving	Neels
	"	20	1 Kiantone	Webster, Ahrens
	"	27	1 Royalton	Rosche et al
	"	31	1 Grand Island	Tulinoffs
Bald Eagle	"	24	1 over Hamburg	Bourne
(immature)				
	Mar.	25	1 Beaver Island St. Park	Freitag
(almost complete adult plumage)				
Marsh Hawk	Mar.	6-31	1-5 Lyndonville area	Smiths
	"	14	8 Shadigee	Rosche et al
Sparrow Hawk	"	18	1 over Irving	Neels
*Bobwhite	"	27	2 <u>Alabama</u>	Rosche et al
Turkey	"	13	1 near Chestnut Ridge Pk.	Bourne
	"	25	2 Newton Road, Hamburg	Bourne
	"	26,28,29	13,1,13 Belmont	Rulison
Killdeer	"	2F	1 Port Colborne, Ont.	Salisbury, Dorst
	"	4	1 Marilla	Schafer
(major influx of the month took place March 27-28)				
*Am. Woodcock	Mar.	20	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	24	1 Belmont	Olmstead, Burtens

Vol. 31, No. 4 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

*Common Snipe	Mar.	29	1 Jamestown	Beal
Iceland Gull	"	5	1 Queenston, Ont.	Salisbury
Mourning Dove	"	2	30 Kiantone	Pillsbury, Swanson
(maximum count for month; scattered migrants reported all month with major movement taking place during last week)				
Snowy Owl	Mar.	1-29	1-2 Lyndonville area	Smiths
"	"	1-6	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	"	7	2 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	"	10-14	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	"	12	1 Beaver Island St. Park	Mitchell et al
"	"	30	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
Short-eared Owl	"	1-31	1-41 Lyndonville area	Smiths
"	"	14	10 Shadigee	Rosche et al
"	"	26	1 Lake View	Bourne
Yellow-sh. Flicker	"	7	1 Rensch Rd., Amherst	Rosche, Gellerman
"	"	11	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Freitag, Rathbun
"	"	14	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Freitag
"	"	14	1 Iroquois NWR	Buckland
"	"	25	1 Beaver Island St. Park	Freitag
"	"	27	1 Lyndonville area	Smiths
"	"	31	1 Belmont	Burtens
Red-b. Woodpecker	"	1-31	1 Batavia	Buckland
"	"	28 (f)	1 Knowlesville Rd., Alabama	Salisbury, Dorst
"	"	30 (f)	1 Knowlesville Rd., Alabama	Emersons
*Eastern Phoebe	"	27	1 Wanakah	Bourne
"	"	29	1 Belmont	Olmstead
Horned Lark	"	1	4 Eldridge Rd., Marilla	Schafer
( <u>E.a.alpestris</u> )	"	11	2 Eden	Bourne
"	"	27,28	2,4 Alabama	Rosche et al
Tufted Titmouse	"	3,12	1 Springbrook	Danner
"	"	21-24	1 Springbrook	Danner, Schafer
"	"	30	1 Fort Erie, Ont. (f)	Sommerville
Mockingbird	"	1-31	1 Rensch Rd., Amherst	Rosche, Gellerman
Robin	"	24	35 Hamburg to Angola	Bourne
(Above record is the maximum reported up until the night of March 27-28 when thousands were reported throughout the region; scarce within metropolitan Buffalo all month)				
Eastern Bluebird	Mar.	6	2 Eden	Bourne
"	"	28	10 Springbrook	Schafer
(maximum count for the month)				
Northern Shrike	Mar.	3,14	1 Lyndonville area	Smiths
"	"	7,21	1 Jordan Harbor, Ont.	Salisbury, Dorst
"	"	7	1 Rensch Rd., Amherst	Rosche, Gellerman
"	"	7	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Rosche, Gellerman
"	"	10	1 Hamburg (f)	Bourne
"	"	17	1 Wellsville	Burtens
"	"	21,24	1 Lyndonville area	Smiths
"	"	31	1 Grand Island	Tulinoffs
(Even though the records here for the first ten days of March do not indicate a movement, one took place during this time - a more noticeable movement than in most years.)				
*Loggerhead Shrike	Mar.	31	1 Oak Orchard	Axtell, Dorr
Starling	"	30	1000 Jamestown Roost	Beal
E. Meadowlark	(scattered reports Mar. 1-25; numbers and reports increased Mar. 26-31 with major movement occurring Mar. 27-29)			



Vol. 31, No. 4 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Red-w. Blackbird	Mar.	4F	4 Batavia	Buckland
"	"	4F	14 over Lake View	Rosche
"	"	5	10 Lake View	Bourne
"	"	30	500 Jamestown Roost	Beal
(most noticeable increase occurred March 27-28)				
Rusty Blackbird	Mar.	1F	1 Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	17	300 Jamestown	Beal
"	"	30	500 Jamestown Roost	Beal
Common Grackle	(records indicate a small movement March 10-11; major influx occurred March 26-28)			
	Mar.	30	200 Jamestown Roost	Beal
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	4,9	24,80 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
"	"	20	300 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
"	"	30	1000 Jamestown Roost	Beal
Purple Finch	"	20,21	16 Jamestown area	Webster, Ahrens
(maximum count for the month)				
*Common Redpoll	Mar.	25	2 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
*Pine Siskin	"	11	6 Wellsville	Burtons
Am. Goldfinch	"	25	75 Springbrook	Schafer
(maximum count for the month)				
Rufous-s. Towhee	Mar.	1-31	1 Rensch Rd., Amherst (f)	Rosche, Gellermann
"	"	21	1 Jamestown	Webster, Ahrens
*Vesper Sparrow	"	28	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
Field Sparrow	"	23F-31	1 Springbrook	Danner
White-cr. Sparrow	"	1-31	4 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
"	"	3-31	1 Belmont (f)	Burtons
"	"	13	1 Orchard Park	Bourne
White-thr. Sparrow	"	1-31	4 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
"	"	21	1 Jamestown	Webster, Ahrens
Fox Sparrow	"	12F	1 Fluvanna	Beal
"	"	21	1 Jamestown	Webster, Ahrens
Song Sparrow	(most noticeable influx of the month occurred over the night of March 27-28)			
Lapland Longspur	Mar.	14	25 Shadigee	Rosche et al
"	"	17,25	6,3 Eldridge Rd., Marilla	Schafer, Danner
"	"	27	2 Alabama	Rosche et al
Snow Bunting	"	6	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	17	3 Chestnut Ridge Park	Mitchell
"	"	25	1 Elma	Schafer

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded: 107  
 Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue: 14  
 121

THE 1964 NESTING SEASON AT THE AXTELLS'

Harold H. Axtell

This is a report on nesting activities and rearing of young by the birds on an area of approximately two acres that are planted and being developed to attract birds. This area is situated about three miles west of the upper end of the Niagara River, in an outer suburban locality on Rose Hill Rd., Bertie Township, Ontario. The main habitat characteristics have been described in last year's report (Prothonotary, Vol. 30, No. 3, March 1964, p. 34).

It is my belief that with the possibility of two or three exceptions all nests which progressed so far as to have eggs were known to Mrs. Axtell and me and are mentioned in this report. Some of the nests were checked but few times, whereas others were studied almost daily. Several were in such dense thickets that information about them could be obtained only by observing the activities of the birds involved.

Mourning Dove. Feb. 27, a male, acting like the one on this nesting territory last year, appeared, the circumstances suggesting it had just arrived from migration. Feb. 29, it commenced regular daily singing as if on territory. Mar. 14, a female was seen for the first time; it was with the male. Mar. 28, male tried to mate, but female rejected him. Excessive human activity at this time near the nest site of previous years probably drove the birds away, to attempt nesting several hundred feet to the west off the study area. This nesting effort failed. May 19, a new nest of Mourning Dove is being built in exactly the same place, 16 ft. up in a 45-ft. Norway Spruce, as in the past two years - but this tree died last winter! There is no foliage and the nest has no concealment or protection from sun and rain. May 23, started incubating. May 31, the male while incubating stays on the eggs even when we pass directly underneath; the female, however, is shy, flying off the eggs when we are still 50 to 60 ft. away. June 7, the nest was deserted, and one of the eggs had a small hole in one end, such as is usually made by a House Wren. (In a subsequent nesting, 6 ft. up in a hawthorn about 800 ft. east of this nest, but off the study area, the eggs disappeared after considerable incubation.)

(Tree Swallow. No Tree Swallows were able to nest here this year because of a tragic situation. In an attempt to remedy depredations by some nocturnal predator which in 1963 pulled the contents out of occupied bird houses and ate the birds, we removed our shallow bird houses and replaced them with deeper ones in which the entrance hole was 9 inches above the floor. Examining these boxes on Aug. 13, 1964, we found no nests, but in three of them we found a total of 11 dead and dried full-grown Tree Swallows. Apparently they had been unable to get out through the high entrance holes. In the future, of course, our bird boxes will again be shallow, and wherever possible a sheet metal guard will attempt to give protection from climbing predators.)

Barn Swallow. June 29, a Barn Swallow flew in porch and perched on edge of northwest nest shelter under corner of porch ceiling as if looking it over. June 30, a Barn Swallow deposited several loads of mud on this nest shelter. July 1, a pair spent all day until about sunset building the nest; there was hardly a 15-minute period that they did not carry material to the nest, except once when the four young from their previous brood, which followed them a good deal, lined up in a semicircle on the two open sides of the nest shelter and,



at each visit of the parents with nest material, greeted them with wide open mouths. The parents were forced thereby to suspend construction, and after about half an hour the young gave up waiting, and nest building resumed. July 2, the pair again worked almost constantly at nest building until early afternoon, when the nest appeared nearly finished; they carried only two loads after that. July 3, still building nest. July 4, birds worked some on nest, in which lining appears practically complete. July 5, in afternoon, one adult spent about an hour resting on nest while mate perched on another nest shelter about 20 ft. away under southwest corner of porch roof. July 7, an egg was laid before 8:00 A.M. July 8, laid a second egg. July 9, a third egg had been laid by 8:00 A.M. July 10, laid a fourth egg. July 22, one of the eggs hatched, apparently about mid-morning. July 23, a second egg hatched. July 24, by 8:00 A.M. the third egg, and by 2:00 P.M. the fourth and last egg hatched. Aug. 6, one of the young died a few days ago and was subsequently removed by the swallows. This morning the three remaining young spent nearly all their time perching on rim of nest. Aug. 7, the three young perched on rim of nest all the time. Aug. 8, the young, still on rim of nest, have lost all their tufts of down. Aug. 11, two of the young left the nest between 8:20 and 8:30 A.M. The third was still on the nest at the end of the day. Aug. 12, the third young one left the nest between 8:35 and 11:25 A.M. Aug. 15, the family flies about our place a great deal, and the 3 young often rest on a branch above the driveway entrance.

Catbird (Mr. and Mrs. North). May 9, Mr. North arrived, remembering and doing many of the characteristic acts that identified him last year; perching on the lowest branches of the porch linden when he sees us and watching us with expectant pose, then coming close - within a few yards - for tossed raisins; flying to railing and floor of porch looking for food, even though when he first arrived no food was there; eating suet on north linden, etc. He has a mate that acts, in ways that may or may not identify her with certainty, like Mrs. North of 1963. June 12, found nest 11 ft. up in 18-ft. Tartarian honeysuckle in midst of thicket in north hedge north northeast of house. June 18, the adults are carrying food toward the nest. The dense growth of twigs and branches close about the nest and the darkness of its location prevent us from seeing into the nest even with the small mirror on an extension pole. June 29, the young left the nest. July 1, saw 4 young Catbirds together; their tails are about 70% grown. They are suddenly bolder, coming out into the open. July 2, one of the young North Catbirds flew to the ground to take three raisins I tossed to it (only 3 days out of the nest!). July 10, the adults have stopped feeding the young within the past few days. Aug. 15, a full-grown young one that has been coming ever since July 2 to pick up raisins I tossed, flew to my hand five times today for raisins - the first it has done this.

Catbird (Mr. and Mrs. West). May 29, Mr. West of last year, as determined by characteristic learned habits, and a mate have been back since early May. They have built a nest in about the same place as last year: 6 ft. up in a very dense 9-ft. mock orange bush in west hedge. Mrs. West is incubating. When Mr. West sees me he flies into the sour cherry trees and watches me until I toss raisins to him, having learned this from observing Mr. N. getting tossed raisins in this way. Mr. West picks up two raisins, as a rule, and carries them to a branch several feet from his mate who then leaves her nest and flies to him to be fed the raisins he has brought her. Usually he makes two trips in succession carrying two raisins each trip. June 23, both adults have been carrying raisins to the nest for several days. Mr. West is now the tamest of all our Catbirds; he comes often and waits or begs for raisins to be tossed. June 30, the young



are out of the nest; date of departure is unknown. Today a Catbird, obviously Mrs. West, started a nest in south hedge 9 ft. up in a 14-ft. Tartarian honeysuckle, about 80 ft. south southeast of first nest. July 1, the young from first nest, of which I believe there are 3, have tails about 70% grown. July 3, incubation started on 2 eggs in new nest. July 10, Mr. West still feeds young of the previous brood. July 30, young of second brood left nest today. Aug. 8, these two young have tails about 65% grown. Aug. 14, both parents still feed the two young, whose tails are now about 90% grown.

Catbird (Mr. and Mrs. South). We do not know whether either is the same bird that used this territory last year, although we think it probable that Mr. South is the same. May 31, they have a nest with 2 eggs 5 ft. up in a 6½-ft. golden mock orange bush against the foundation at southeast corner of sun parlor. June 1, a third egg was laid. June 14, the 3 eggs hatched. June 26, the 3 young left the nest. June 29, a Catbird, presumably Mrs. South, was building a nest 7 ft. up in 11-ft. high-bush cranberry in south hedge, 130 ft. east of first nest. June 30, this nest looks about finished. July 3, nest contained one egg of Catbird, one of Cowbird. July 4, nest contained two Catbird's eggs; the Cowbird's egg was gone. July 5, nest contains 3 Catbird's eggs. Adult is incubating. July 8, the bird was not on its nest last night, today, or tonight; though the eggs are still there, they have been deserted. The reason is not known. Two Catbirds still act in many ways as if caring for the nest, which is only a few feet from one of the fruiting sweet cherry trees that are extremely busy with birds, including Catbirds, all the time. Possibly the South Catbirds feel their nest is in too public a location. July 10, the adults have stopped feeding their young of the first brood within the past few days.

Catbird (Mr. and Mrs. East). July 6, having suspected the presence of a fourth nesting pair of Catbirds, I investigated and found a fourth nest 8 ft. up in a 12-ft. hawthorn in thicket of thorns and gray dogwoods in north hedge in East Section. It contained at least 2 young. The branches were too dense to allow looking in nest. July 14, at 8:00 A.M. one of the young, its tail about three-fourths of an inch long, was perched about a foot from the nest, apparently having just left it.

Brown Thrasher. (June 13, four young Brown Thrashers with tails 70-75% grown appeared for the first time from a nest east of our property. They were being fed by both parents, but sometimes foraged for themselves.) June 15, this pair, whose male is still often feeding, especially suet and raisins, to four large fledglings, has a new nest 11 ft. up in very dense 13-ft. mock orange 21 ft. from North Catbirds' nest in hedge north of house. Male tried twice to copulate with female. (June 20, the 4 young of the first brood are now practically indistinguishable in body and tail proportions from the adults. The 4 are usually together and are still often fed by the adult male, and they also often feed themselves.) July 2, the adults are carrying food to the nest, but they are so secretive I do not know how many days they have been doing so, even though the nest is only 50 ft. from the porch. July 6, the young left the nest. July 10, I was able to determine that there are at least 3 young from this nest.

Robin (Mr. H. and mate). Mar. 7, the first robins arrived locally. One was singing in early morning. Later two were in territorial conflict. In late afternoon it occurred to me to test one which had the color characteristics of Mr. H of 1963 and was acting entirely at home on his 1963 territory. To my



customary four-note whistle he responded in all of Mr. H's characteristic ways as in 1962 and 1963, leaving no doubt that it was Mr. H. He continued daily thereafter to respond the same as in previous years. Mr. H. was a long time without a mate. But one morning in early April an interesting thing happened which involved Mr. H and two female Robins that I was unable to identify individually. Mr. H flew into a tall Lombardy poplar and perched 3 or 4 ft. from a female that had a billful of coarse grass. After several seconds another female flew in and lit about 2 ft. directly below the first female and slightly below the level of Mr. H. She assumed a suppliant position, crouching with tail and beak somewhat tilted upward and wings slightly extended and fluttering rapidly, the typical gesture of invitation to the male to copulate. This was too much for the Robin with the billful of nesting material. She dropped onto the suppliant Robin in an attack which was followed by 20 minutes of the fiercest bird fighting I can recall ever having witnessed. There was very little of the sparring, feinting, or dodging which is so much a part of the fighting of male Robins, but they were at grips most of the time, and when one broke loose, both seemed equally eager and quick to get back at the other. They seemed intent only on hurting or killing each other. The squealing, screeching, pecking, pulling, scratching, grappling, fluttering pair moved during twenty minutes about 150 ft. from where they started. All this time Mr. H was an interested but neutral spectator, following along mostly 2 to 6 ft. from the fighters, watching them closely. Twice one of the females attacked him, but he merely flew away several yards and quickly returned to watch as soon as the fighting resumed. After twenty minutes I had to leave. I do not know whether I ever saw either of these females again, but construction was not continued on the barely-started nest structure near which the fight began.

As explained in the story of Mr. E and mates, Mr. H acquired a mate in an unexpected way - when Mrs. E inadvertently built her nest on Mr. H's territory. Apr. 17, this mate was lining her nest in the Schwedler's maple. Apr. 20, she started incubating. May 6, 2 of the 4 eggs hatched. May 7, the third egg hatched. May 8, the fourth hatched. (I cannot explain the exceptionally long incubation; the beginning of incubation on the 20th is presumed by observing an adult on the nest in incubating position during all of the several observations during about an hour before dark on the 20th, and one observation after dark, and during nearly all observations on the following day and subsequent ones.) May 20, one young left the nest. May 21, the others left the nest. May 31, Mr. H is caring for 2 young from this nest.

In the 2nd nest, 130 ft. north of the first one, 11 ft. up near middle of a 15-ft. hawthorne at outside corner of north hedge 50 ft. north of porch, 4 eggs were laid, two of which hatched June 13. The contents of this nest were very difficult to see clearly, but on June 18 it could be seen that the nest held 3 partly-grown young. June 24, one young left the nest. June 25, a second young one left the nest. June 26, the third (last) young one left in afternoon. July 3, Mrs. H was carrying lining material to a third nest 28 ft. up in the 90-ft. southwest Lombardy poplar. The young left this nest Aug. 5 or 6. There appeared to be 3 young.

On July 29 began the story of Mr. H's long disabling injury to his left leg, which, however, is too long a story to be told here. In short, with our aid and encouragement, he recovered after several weeks. Of particular interest is the fact that even though almost completely incapacitated, he was able to defend both his territory and his private feeding spot where he kept a



supply of choice Robin food available for him. Fortunately a fight never was necessary; he needed only to make a slight move toward an invading Robin to effect its departure. Mr. H had built up a well-earned great prestige among neighboring Robins during his process of achieving the top of the peck order. Nov. 4, Mr. H, remaining on his territory daily from Mar. 7 to Nov. 4 was last seen on this date, making him the last of our Robins to leave as well as first to arrive in spring.

Robin (Mr. E and mates). Mar. 24, a Robin, to be called Mr. E, arrived and attempted to carve out a territory extending from our house eastward. For an hour I watched the fighting between Mr. E and Mr. H. Mr. E was being beaten very badly, and I rather expected to see him get seriously injured, but he was usually the one to reactivate the hostilities. While I watched, he was driven back about 350 ft. Mar. 26, returning to the scene after 47 hours, I was surprised to find that Mr. E had somehow regained all the lost ground. The 2 Robins were still threatening each other, but doing almost no fighting, in a sort of stalemate at the northeast corner of the porch, a natural boundary for bird territories.

The next chapter in the story of Mr. E is a rather amusing one. A Mrs. E arrived the next day, Mar. 27, she and Mr. E accepting each other immediately and spending most of the day together. Mar. 28, at 7:45 A.M. for about five minutes and again at 1:30 P.M. for 2 minutes I saw Mrs. E investigating potential nest sites in the south hedge, mostly in silver maples and Lombardy poplars. Apr. 4, again Mrs. E was looking for nest sites in the south hedge, ranging nearly the entire length of the hedge, not all of which was in her territory, however. Apr. 16, Mrs. E was carrying mud for a nest 16 ft. up in a crotch in the trunk of a 33-ft. Schwedler's maple in the south hedge south of the house. Now the south side of the house seems to form an even more natural territorial boundary for birds than its northeast corner, so much so in fact that Mr. E and Mr. H had done but little "arbitrating" about the exact location of their boundary in that area. But Mrs. E innocently chose to build her nest a few yards over into Mr. H's side of this "natural" boundary. Since Mr. H had not yet acquired a mate, the result of this blunder was inevitable - Mrs. E, having built on Mr. H's territory, became Mrs. H, and henceforth the story of this nest is part of the story of Mr. and Mrs. H. One wonders whether Mr. E or Mr. H was the father of her eggs!

Mr. E did not grieve long over this freak way of losing his mate, however. Two days later, on Apr. 18, Mr. E had found a new mate who started building a nest 17 ft. up in the crotch of a 70-ft. Lombardy poplar at southeast corner of east lawn. A few days later there was no sign of this nest material; it was probably blown away in a windstorm. Apr. 29, a pair of Robins, apparently Mr. and Mrs. E, were looking for nest sites in the east section, then a few minutes later one carried nest material to the same crotch where a nest was started Apr. 18. May 3, saw Mrs. E fly to this nest, now completed, lay an egg, and leave again, all between 9:40 and 10:00 A.M. May 11, female has been incubating for about a week. May 31, Mr. E was feeding a young one that had left nest a day or two prematurely and could not fly. 3 young still in nest. June 1, when I arrived at 6:15 P.M. Mrs. E was carrying nest material to a spot 11 ft. up in a 13-ft. Tartarian honeysuckle in north hedge about 165 ft. northwest of her other nest. She carried 3 loads while I watched. About 20 loads had been carried to this nest and several loads to a similar site about 15 inches from it. Watching her closely, I saw her then gather food, which she carried to her previous nest which still contained 2 young, a third



one being out of the nest only a few yards away. Before dark the remaining two left the nest, about a half hour apart. Both parents were bringing them food, and the male was also feeding a fourth young one which left the nest prematurely yesterday. In the new nest high in the honeysuckle bush two eggs were laid, both of which hatched; one of the young left the nest in the afternoon of July 1, the other in the early morning of July 2. It is quite rare for young in two successive nests of the same pair of Robins to leave the nests only a month apart, as in this case.

Robin (Mr. and Mrs. W). May 22, I found a nest with an adult incubating, 9 ft. up in a 14-ft. Tartarian honeysuckle bush in the dense south hedge 25 ft. east of southwest corner. June 14, one young left nest about 7:00 P.M.; 2 are still in nest. June 15, the remaining 2 young left the nest. June 23, the tails of these young are about 65% grown. Certain aspects of the behavior of the Robins in this pair suggest that one or both may be Mr. and Mrs. P of last year (1963), who reared 2 broods in a single nest in a Scotch pine about 30 ft. away from this nest.

(Robin. Two of our favorite and easily recognizable Robins of 1963, Mr. and Mrs. M, did not nest on our property in 1964. On June 21, however, Mrs. M of 1963 appeared and "begged" for raisins which she carried to a nest containing 3 large young in a main crotch about 40 ft. up in a large sugar maple about 200 ft. south of our property. This nest was in part of her territory of previous years, however. She then continued daily to come for raisins throughout the rest of the season. On July 1, Mr. M of 1963 suddenly appeared, likewise "begging" for raisins. Raisins that he did not eat himself, he carried away, flying always far to the south where we could no longer follow him after he disappeared beyond a line of trees a quarter of a mile away. Thereafter he, too, continued to come many times daily for some weeks, but after picking up the raisins we tossed to him, he always returned to the south. These two Robins, paired together in 1963, had obviously taken separate mates in 1964, Mrs. M with her new mate nesting in one corner of her 1963 territory, but Mr. M taking a territory several hundred yards away.)

Starling. May 3. As a result of a Downy Woodpecker enlarging the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch entrance hole of a bird house to about 2 inches, Starlings had nested in it, laying 6 eggs. To test whether Starlings with the incentive of reaching their eggs could pass through a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch hole I placed a metal piece with exactly this size hole over the 2-inch hole. The Starlings tried to enter during much of the time for nearly two days, but were unsuccessful. I then removed the eggs.

Starling. May to June, another pair nested successfully in a natural hole 20 ft. up in 50-ft. elm tree as in previous years.

Yellow Warbler. May 31, nest with 4 eggs  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. up in 5-ft. high part of gray dogwood thicket, about half way between highest part of thicket and its low outer edge, in north hedge northeast of old brush pile. June 10, two of the four eggs hatched. June 11, the other two eggs hatched. June 18, the 4 young left the nest yesterday or today. This nest was found to have a second flooring which mostly covered 2 Cowbird eggs and 2 Yellow Warbler eggs. The 4 successful eggs were laid on top of these.

(Another Yellow Warbler, June 29, was feeding a nearly full-grown Cowbird. July 1, saw two Cowbirds being fed by a Yellow Warbler. These must



have been from a nest off our property.)

House Sparrow. June 16, the young left nest in old Flicker hole in big apple tree beside house.

Baltimore Oriole. May 23, found nest 35 ft. up in 65-ft. Lombardy poplar near southwest corner. June 11, Oriole carried a fecal sac away from nest. June 20, the 4 young left the nest. July 2, the 4 young orioles, which are nearly fully grown, spend a great deal of time in the immediate vicinity.

Common Grackle. An estimated 3 pairs nested this year. One nest was 18 ft. up in a very dense portion of an old apple tree close to the house. The young left this nest June 22. The other two pairs nested high in very dense portions of rather tall Norway spruces. One of these nests was under construction April 12. The young left the other nest June 19. All Grackle young had left the vicinity June 26.

Brown-headed Cowbird. Eggs of this species were found in nests of Catbird, Yellow Warbler, Field Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. One young is known to have been reared. All known eggs were prevented from hatching either by the nest owner or by human interference. Since it is not known whether more than one female Cowbird is involved, all these Cowbird eggs are arbitrarily considered one set in our statistical calculations.

Field Sparrow (South Pair). May 31, this pair shows clear indications that its first nest, which we did not locate exactly, has been broken up. June 15, I found the new nest, 28 inches above ground in a dense clump of 26 multiflora rose bushes. It contained 3 young about 1 day old. June 22, the 3 young left nest today. June 26, a Field Sparrow carrying nest material near southeast corner at 7:30 A.M. The exact location of this nest, which was apparently deserted about July 2, was not found until late fall when it was seen to be 16 inches up in a low multiflora rose hedge. It still held two Cowbird eggs. July 8, young of previous brood are nearly full grown. July 18, we found a Field Sparrow's nest 18 inches up near middle of a clump of nine multiflora rose bushes. It contained 3 Field Sparrow eggs and 1 Cowbird egg; I removed the latter. July 23, at 6:30 P.M. one of the eggs had just hatched; the shell had not yet been removed. July 24, the second egg hatched between 6:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. At 6:00 P.M. the two young were gone, one egg remained, but the nest was deserted.

Song Sparrow (Central Song Sparrow). May 8, the male of this pair, with a song that is easily recognizable, has been here each of the four nesting seasons that we have shared his ownership of this property. Behavior indicates that he and his mate have a nest, now containing young, on or near the ground in the dense coralberry thicket at the southeast corner of the east lawn. May 10, the nest was apparently broken up last night (probably by cat or skunk), and adult was carrying grass to a spot about 175 ft. to the southeast in a field. May 21, this pair has a new nest on the ground under a multiflora rose clump about 60 ft. east of the first nest. June 7, the nest was prematurely empty, obviously having been raided by a predator since June 4, the last time we know it was still active. June 9, we found the new nest - their third or fourth for this season - 2½ ft. up in a very dense part of the 6-ft. ohlendorfi spruce near middle of east lawn. It appeared to be finished but empty. June 10 and 11, a Song Sparrow flew out of this spruce nearly every



time I passed it, although the nest remained empty. June 12, nest contained 1 egg of Song Sparrow and 1 of Cowbird. June 13, a second Song Sparrow egg was laid. June 14, a third Song Sparrow egg was laid in morning. June 15, a fourth egg was laid. Though still laying, the female has been at the nest nearly all the time the past 3 days. June 16, I removed the Cowbird egg, leaving only the 4 Song Sparrow eggs. June 27, the eggs hatched. July 4, the young still have pin feathers. July 5, the young became feathered. July 6, 3 of the 4 young left the nest; the 4th was dead from unknown causes.

Song Sparrow (Pinery Song Sparrow). May 7, found the nest 15 inches above ground in densest part of densest Scotch Pine in densest part of densest thicket of Scotch pines 3 to 4 ft. tall that we planted 11 days ago. The nest held 5 Song Sparrow eggs. We believe the birds started building this nest either the same day we planted the tree or not later than the following day. May 19, the 5 eggs hatched. May 20, the nest had been raided since yesterday afternoon; the young were missing and the nest lining and rim were mussed up. June 13, found new nest 32 inches from the previous one, in a corresponding situation at the same height in the very next pine, also planted this spring. It contained 2 eggs of Song Sparrow and 2 of Cowbird. I removed one of the latter. June 16, I removed the remaining Cowbird egg, leaving the 2 Song Sparrow eggs. I also put a temporary protective chicken wire fence across all pathways and openings leading toward the nest, to reduce the likelihood of disturbance by cats and other medium-sized animals. June 18, the eggs hatched. June 26, the young became feathered. June 27, the young left the nest. July 1, saw one of the young; its tail was about 1 inch long; July 3, we found that a white-footed mouse's nest had been built on the nest that was raided by a predator on May 19 or 20. July 12, I saw the two nearly full-grown young following and being fed by the adult male. Aug. 13, found a nest containing 2 young about 2 days old, 26" up in a Scotch pine and 33" from the nest from which the 2 young left on June 27. During a more thorough examination of the pinery I found two other this-year's nests, no longer in use though one contained an unhatched egg. Both were between 20 and 26 inches up in dense 3 to 4-ft. Scotch pines planted in spring of this year. This makes 5 nests presumably built by the same pair of birds, all similarly situated in 3 to 4-ft. Scotch pines planted this spring. Aug. 16, we put a temporary chicken wire fence around the nest in a circle about 7 to 10 ft. in diameter. The eyes of the young were opening this evening. Aug. 17, the 2 young have well-developed pin feathers. Aug. 18, in the evening the young had feathers covering the back but pin feathers on wings. Aug. 19, in early morning the young were fully feathered except for a few unbroken sheaths at tips of some wing feathers. At 8:00 P.M. they were fully feathered, and one of the young fluttered from the nest when for the third time in about a minute I moved a small branch that was 10 inches away. Aug. 20, the other young one had left the nest by 8:00 A.M.

Song Sparrow (East Song Sparrow - 1 or 2 pairs). May 8, food is being carried, obviously to a nest containing young, in a discarded Scotch pine Christmas tree that we stood up in the edge of the "new brush pile" last winter and protected - even from our own investigations! - by placing two other such trees close against the front of it. (The presence of at least one such nest here was verified a few days after Christmas, 1964, when we added new trees.) Owing to the inaccessibility of this nest for study and to the secretiveness of Song Sparrows in relation to their nests and young, detailed information about this nesting was not obtained. June 10, found a nest about 125 ft. east of previous nest, on ground 25 ft. from multiflora rose hedge in a sparsely weedy field. It contained a young Song Sparrow and a young Cowbird.



June 15, these two young left the nest in the morning. July 1, Song Sparrows were carrying food to a nest in a discarded Scotch pine Christmas tree at edge of new brush pile (same site as in May). July 5, still carrying food to same spot. July 6, the young, number unknown, left the nest. Aug. 14, Rachel found a nest with 3 young, 1 of which was about 1 day old, 2 were about 2 days old, 36 inches up in 45-inch hawthorne clipped to make it grow dense, on our south border 50 ft. west of southeast corner. Aug. 20, the young had pin feathers, but not equally developed in all three. Aug. 21, in the morning the young appeared to be fully feathered, but I could not be certain this was true of all three. Aug. 22, young still in nest at dusk. Aug. 23, the young left nest in morning. The last one was perched on rim of nest, facing outward at 11:40 A.M. Sept. 6, a young one with tail about 65% grown is being fed millet seed many times daily. Sept. 12, a young one with tail about 95% grown is still being fed millet seed by a parent.

(Song Sparrow, another pair. June 13, for about 30 minutes in the early morning a Song Sparrow very busily carried the early coarse nesting materials to a location just under the outer foliage 6 ft. up in an extremely dense mock orange bush in the north hedge north of the house. There was frequent fighting between this pair and the Central Song Sparrows whose nest is only about 125 ft. to the east. The Pinery Song Sparrows' nest is about 115 ft. to the west. June 14, an adult worked rapidly at nest-building with coarse straws at least from 7:20 to 8:40 A.M. This nest was carried practically to completion, but was not used thereafter. The builders presumably encountered too much conflict with the two pairs close by.)

Many other species came to the study area to obtain food for young being reared elsewhere, and then brought their fledglings which then spent a large part of their time there. In most of these instances, it appeared that the present study area was of major importance in fulfilling the family needs other than the nest site. This was especially true of a family of Flickers, a family of Hairy Woodpeckers, two families of Downy Woodpeckers, several of Cedar Waxwings, 2 or 3 of Red-winged Blackbirds, several families of Goldfinches, and many others in somewhat lesser degree. One of the more interesting visitors was a relatively unafraid full-grown young Spotted Sandpiper which, for a week or two frequently walked about on our lawn picking up insects and then, its appetite satisfied, always stood in the middle of one of the bird baths to preen and rest. It had no trouble keeping the bird bath to itself, because it had only to point its long bill in the direction of any approaching bird to frighten it away.

SUMMARY. Twenty-four pairs of 13 species nested and laid eggs on these two acres in 1964. (Several additional pairs of several additional species started or attempted nesting activities, but were discouraged in one way or another before they reached the egg-laying stage.)

These 24 pairs laid 39 sets of eggs (arbitrarily counting all Cowbird eggs as one "set".)

Thirty nests, of 22 pairs, of 12 species successfully fledged a total of about 83 young (including estimates of the number fledged in several of the nests). These same 22 successful pairs also had a total of at least 8 additional nests with eggs all of which were unsuccessful, plus several nests which so far as we know did not reach the point of containing eggs. Of the 22 pairs, 2 pairs failed to fledge any young on our land in 1964.



Of the 10 sets of eggs that failed to fledge any young, one failure (Starling) was the result of human interference, a second (Yellow Warbler) was because the Warbler herself covered the eggs, including 2 Cowbird eggs, with a second floor to her nest, a third (Mourning Dove) was probably because of a House Wren stabbing one (or both?) of the eggs. For the other seven, no particular one probable cause is indicated by the meager evidence that could be found. - Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

#### NOTES AND NEWS

The family of the late Bernard Nathan wishes to thank the members of the B.O.S. for the thoughtful act in establishing a Memorial Fund for Bernard. They are grateful for the many expressions of sympathy from the group.

The recent publication of BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION by Clark S. Beardslee and Harold D. Mitchell marks the high point in the thirty-five year history of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Begun in 1930, the work was completed by Harold D. Mitchell after the untimely death of Clark Beardslee in 1957. The book which has been received with much enthusiasm, is an absolute "must" for every birder in Western New York (though its appeal is not limited to this region by any means), for it states definitively the status, past and present, of every bird ever recorded in the Niagara Frontier Region.

A review by Stephen W. Eaton will appear in the next issue of the Prothonotary. Meanwhile the book may be purchased at Ulbrich's - hard cover at \$10.00, paperbound at \$9.00 - or at the Museum where the usual discount for members of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences is being extended for the purchase of the book to members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.- Marie Wendling

Federation of New York State Bird Clubs Annual Meeting - June 11-13, 1965, at Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York

Wilson Ornithological Society Annual Meeting - June 17-20, 1965, at Sylvan Lake, South Dakota.

American Ornithologists' Union Annual Meeting - August 23-27, 1965, at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Another useful book to birders, NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS EGGS by Chester A. Reed, has been reprinted by Dover Publications, 180 Varick St., New York 10014. Price \$3.00.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September through June.

May 26 - General discussion concerning the future of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. All members are urged to attend. Report of the May Bird Count by Marie Wendling.

June 9 - Picnic meeting at Old Fort Erie, Ontario. Meet 6:00 P.M. Bring your own supper

June 23 - no meeting

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

May 23 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Whimbrels. Meet 7:00 A.M. at Busti Avenue and Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge, Buffalo. Joint trip with Buffalo Audubon Society and Museum Bird Class. Leader, Richard C. Rosche (TF 4-8859).

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Richard C. Rosche, 48 Dartmouth Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14215

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092

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# The PROTHONOTARY

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## THE MONTH

In April the average temperature was 2.3 degrees below the long-term mean, with the cold weather distributed throughout practically all parts of the month, the few warm periods not exceeding three days at a time. Precipitation, which reached a total of two inches, was one inch below normal, but rather well distributed so that the ground never did get really dry. In many areas the ground continued to be frozen much later in the season than usual. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

Throughout the month migration tended in general to be late. Reports indicate greater numbers of some kinds of waterfowl and shorebirds than are normal for April. Rosche reports an exceptionally good waterfowl flight April 7. Readers' attention is called to the special report prepared by Mr. Rosche on hawk migrations this month. Species of very special interest include the Bohemian Waxwing in company with 300 Cedar Waxwings feeding on fruits of Russian olive trees on the bank of the Welland Canal north of Thorold, Ontario. The Greenland White-fronted Goose is the second record for this race in the Niagara Frontier Region. This bird was present at the Tonawanda Game Management Area during three successive weekends, but could be found by only very few parties of observers. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1961) and its Supplement, has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Vol. 31, No. 5 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Common Loon	Apr.	1F	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	1F	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	16	4 over Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	21	30 over Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Red-necked Grebe	"	30	1 Amity, Allegany Co.	Burtens
Great Blue Heron	"	25	9 Town's Corners Rookery	Rew et al
*Green Heron	"	20	1 near Falconer	Pillsbury et al
"	"	28	2 Allanburg, Ont.	Salisbury
*B.-cr. N. Heron	"	9	1 Arlington Pl., Buffalo	Clark
"	"	30	1 Eden	Bourne
*American Bittern	"	1	1 Scio	Burtens
"	"	2	1 Caneadea	Burtens
<u>Mute Swan</u>	"	22	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
"	"	23	1 Athol Springs	Clark, Bosserman
Whistling Swan	"	3	31 Chautauqua Lake	Clark, Swarts
"	"	3	7 Hanover Center	Clark, Swarts
"	"	6	2 Oak Orchard	Tulinoffs
"	"	8	6 Iroquois NWR	Freitags
"	"	8	5 Chautauqua Lake	Pillsbury
"	"	10	2 Oak Orchard	Wendlings
"	"	11	3 Beaver Island St. Park	A. Freitag
"	"	11	4 Clymer	Pillsbury
"	"	12-26	1-6 Lyndonville area	Smiths
"	"	16	2 Oak Orchard	Rochester et al
"	"	30	2 Falconer	Swanson
Canada Goose	"	1	12000 Iroquois NWR	Freitags
"	"	3	12000 Oak Orchard area	Brownstein
"	"	8	15000 Iroquois NWR	Freitags
"	"	11	26000 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
"	"	25	12000 Iroquois NWR	Freitags
(maximum counts for the month)				
*White-fr. Goose	Apr.	3	1 Tonawanda GMA	Rosche et al
( <u>A.a.flavirostris</u> )	"	18	1 Tonawanda GMA	Brownstein et al
*Snow Goose	"	11	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
"	"	23	3 Lyndonville area	Smiths
"	"	25	1 Tonawanda GMA	McKales
"	"	25	1 Iroquois NWR	Freitags
Blue Goose	"	11	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
"	"	15	1 Oak Orchard	Wendlings
"	"	23	2 Lyndonville area	Smiths
Gadwall	"	6	2 East Eden	Bourne
"	"	7	4 Dunkirk	Rosche, Budington
"	"	11	4 Dunkirk Harbor	Brownstein et al
"	"	15	2 Oak Orchard	Wendlings
"	"	20	2 Stockton	Pillsbury et al
"	"	22	5 Scio	Burtens
"	"	28	2 Langford	Bourne
"	"	29,30	1,2 Kiantone	Pillsbury
(many more reports this April than in recent years)				
Pintail	Apr.	8	1500 Iroquois NWR	Freitags
(maximum count for season in this area)				
Green-w. Teal	Apr.	7	4 East Eden	Bourne
"	"	7	51 Silver Creek-Westfield	Rosche, Budington
"	"	24	73 Chautauqua County	Rew et al
*European Widgeon	"	9-11	1 Buffalo Harbor	Clark et al



Vol. 31, No. 5 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

*European Widgeon	Apr.	11	1 Buffalo Harbor	Brownstein et al
Shoveler	"	9	1 Langford	Bourne
	"	10	3 Oak Orchard	Wendlings
	"	10,20,24	8,4,4 Kiantone	Pillsbury et al
	"	11	9 Oak Orchard area	Brownstein et al
	"	11	20 Hanover Center	Grzybowski et al
	"	14-24	1-3 Eden	Bourne
	"	15	2 South Park, Buffalo	Freitags, Mrozek
	"	16	4 Oak Orchard	Rochester et al
	"	18,25	3,2 Hanover Center	Rew et al
	"	24	1 North Cuba Marsh	Burtions, Palmer
	"	25	4 Hanover Center	Pillsbury et al
	"	25	3 Iroquois NWR	Freitags
	"	25	6 near Alabama	McKales
	"	26	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	30	3 Kiantone	Swanson
(a much better than average April flight involving more individuals than in recent years)				
Redhead	Apr.	8	48 Buffalo Harbor	Clark
	"	8,10	100 Chautauqua Lake	Pillsbury et al
(maximum counts for the month)				
Ring-necked Duck	Apr.	7	57 Hamburg to Dunkirk	Rosche, Budington
	"	10	35 North Cuba Marsh	Burtions
	"	17	55 Lime Lake	Rew
	"	20	109 Chautauqua County	Pillsbury et al
(maximum counts for the month)				
Oldsquaw	Apr.	22	23 Scio	Burtions
White-w. Scoter	"	22	4 Scio	Burtions
Ruddy Duck	"	7	3 Dunkirk	Rosche, Budington
	"	9	1 Buffalo Harbor	Clark
	"	9	5 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
	"	10,20	20,40 Chautauqua Lake	Pillsbury et al
	"	11	6 Chaut. L. at Greenhurst	Swanson
	"	11,15	1 Clymer	Pillsbury
	"	15	1 Oak Orchard	Wendlings et al
	"	16	5 Oak Orchard	Rochester et al
	"	17	2 Lime Lake	Rew
	"	23,24	5,6 Cuba Lake	Burtions et al
	"	25	2 Cassadaga Lake	Pillsbury et al
	"	30	2 Eden	Bourne
(more reports this April than in recent years)				
Sharp-sh. Hawk	Apr.	3	2 Caneadea	Burtions
	"	3	1 over Shelby	Brownstein et al
	"	15	1 Highland-on-the-Lake	Freitags, Mrozek
	"	18,25	2,4 Lyndonville area	Smiths
	"	18	1 Belmont	Burtions
	"	20	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	25	1 Akron	McKales
Cooper's Hawk	"	5	1 Langford	Rochester et al
	"	19	1 over Hanover	Brownstein
	"	24	7 Lyndonville area	Smiths
*Broad-w. Hawk	"	18,24	1,2 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	20	3 Chautauqua County	Pillsbury et al
	"	21	8 near Silver Creek	Pillsbury et al
	"	25	9 Lyndonville area	Smiths

Rough-l. Hawk	Apr.	1	1 Belmont	Olmstead
"	"	1,5	2,2 Wellsville	Burtions
"	"	1-26	4-51 Lyndonville area	Smiths
(51 birds observed April 22 is an exceptionally high count and the highest in recent years)				
"	Apr.	5	1 Langford	Rochester et al
"	"	8	1 Batavia	Buckland
"	"	9,10	1,2 Langford, over Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	11	1 Beaver Island St. Park	A. Freitag
"	"	18	4 Town of Portland	Ulrichs et al
"	"	18	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	20,21	3,1 Boston, Eden	Bourne
"	"	24	1 Willoughby, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
"	"	24	1 St. Catharines, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Bald Eagle	"	16	1 over Oakfield	Rochester et al
(adult)				
Marsh Hawk	Apr.	1-26	1-52 Lyndonville area	Smiths
(The 52 birds observed April 17 is an exceptionally high count and the highest in recent years)				
*Osprey	Apr.	9	1 Eden	Bourne
"	"	11	1 Gasport	Brownstein et al
"	"	11	1 Beaver Island St. Park	A. Freitag
"	"	11	1 Amherst	Brownstein et al
"	"	20	4 Kiantone	Pillsbury et al
"	"	24	3 Chautauqua County	Rew et al
(above two counts are maximum counts; many reports of single birds from throughout region this April indicating better flight than in past few years.)				
*Pigeon Hawk	Apr.	1	1 Lake View	Bourne
"	Apr.	25	1 Langford	Wendlings
Turkey	"	1,2,5	16,16,3 Wellsville	Burtions
"	"	21	1 Larkin Road, Eden	Ulrichs, Bigelow
*Virginia Rail	"	28	1 Allanburg, Ont.	Salisbury
*Sora	"	26	3 Eden	Bourne
"	"	30	1 Kiantone	Pillsbury
*C. Gallinule	"	21	1 Eden	Bourne
"	"	22	1 Eckhardt Rd., Eden	Rochester et al
Common Snipe	"	2	1 Stannards	Burton
*Upland Plover	"	17,18	1,2 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
*Spotted Sandpiper	Apr.	11	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Brownstein et al
"	Apr.	17	1 Alma	Burtions
*Solitary Sandp.	"	23	1 Pt. Stockholm	Swanson
"	"	30	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
Greater Yellowlegs	"	6	1 East Eden	Bourne
"	"	7	3 Hanover Center	Rosche, Budington
"	"	10	9 Hanover Center	Clark
"	"	11	23 Hanover Center	Brownstein et al
"	"	15	12 Hanover Center	Freitags, Mrozek
"	"	18	44 Hanover Center	Rew et al
"	"	23	100 Hanover Center	Clark, Bosserman
"	"	24	97 Hanover Center	Rew et al
"	"	25	150 Hanover Center	Pillsbury et al
*Lesser Yellowlegs	"	11	2 Beaver Island St. Park	A. Freitag
"	"	11	1 Hanover Center	Brownstein et al
"	"	15	8 Hanover Center	Freitags, Mrozek



Vol. 31, No. 5 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

*Lesser Yellowlegs	Apr. 18, 24, 25	4, 8, 6	Hanover Center	Rew et al
*Pectoral Sandp.	" 10	1	Hanover Center	Clark
"	" 15	10	Hanover Center	Freitags, Mrozek
"	18, 24	14, 220	Hanover Center	Rew et al
"	23	250	Hanover Center	Clark, Bosserman
"	25	100	Hanover Center	Rew et al
"	23, 28	15, 9	Town of Java	Rochester et al
"	24	45	Ditch Rd., Conewango	Rew et al
Dunlin	" 27F	1	Red Bird Corners	Swansons
"	28	1	Town of Java	Rochester et al
Iceland Gull	" 16	1	Athol Springs	Bourne
( <u>L.g.glaucoides</u> )				
Bonaparte's Gull	" 8F	35	Iroquois NWR	Freitags
"	10	10	Chautauqua Lake	Pillsbury et al
"	10	3	Buffalo Harbor	Brownstein
"	10	11	North Cuba Marsh	Burtens
Little Gull	" 21F	1	Thorold, Ont.	Salisbury
Common Tern	" 11F	1	Lyndonville area	Smiths
"	16	4	Niagara Falls	Salisbury, Dorst
*Caspian Tern	" 16	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
"	22	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Salisbury
"	23	3	Cuba Lake	Burtens
*Barn Owl	" 2	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Snowy Owl	" 1-13	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	1	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtell
"	7, 11	1	Buffalo Harbor	Clark
"	10, 11	1	Amherst	Brownsteins
"	11	1	Buffalo Harbor	Brownstein et al
"	12, 13	1	Lyndonville area	Smiths
"	13	1	South Buffalo Harbor	Rew
"	16	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury, Dorst
Long-e. Owl	" 18, 23	2	Lyndonville area	Smiths
Short-e. Owl	" 1-26	1-31	Lyndonville area	Smiths
"	3, 4, 5	4	Langford	Rochester et al
"	18	2	Town of Hartland	Ulrichs et al
Saw-whet Owl	" 9	1	Lyndonville area	Smiths
*Chimney Swift	" 22	2	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	24	4	Kiantone	Pillsbury et al
Y.-sh. Flicker	" 15	20	Highland-on-the-Lake	Freitags, Mrozek
"	20, 21	32, 35	South Shore Lake Erie	Rochester et al
Red-b. Woodpecker	" 3	(f) 1	<u>Knowlesville Rd., Alabama</u>	Rosche et al
"	3, 11	(f) 1	<u>Knowlesville Rd., Alabama</u>	Brownstein et al
Y.-b. Sapsucker	" 10	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
*Eastern Kingbird	Apr. 25	1	Logan Road, Attica	Rosche et al
"	Apr. 28	1	Wellsville	Burtens
Tree Swallow	" 5	4	Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
"	" 5	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Salisbury
*Bank Swallow	" 17	1	East Eden	Bourne
"	20	3	Springbrook	Schafer
*Rough-w. Swallow	Apr. 9	1	Eden	Bourne
"	Apr. 13	1	Springbrook	Schafer, Danner
*Barn Swallow	" 9	1	Elma area	Danner
"	" 11	2	Lake View	Clark et al
"	" 11	1	Lyndonville area	Smiths
*Cliff Swallow	" 24	1	Ditch Rd., Conewango	Rew et al

Vol. 31, No. 5 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

*Cliff Swallow	Apr.	26	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
*Purple Martin	"	7	1 Port Weller, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	8	3 Wellsville	Burttons
Tufted Titmouse	"	2	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	9	1 Lake View	Rosche
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	24,25	1 Lake Akron	Rosche et al
*House Wren	"	25	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	28	1 Allanburg, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	28	2 Springbrook	Danner
Winter Wren	"	9	1 Lyndonville area	Smiths
*Carolina Wren	"	11,13	1 Hamburg (f)	Bourne
Mockingbird	"	3	1 Rensch Rd., Amherst	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	26	1 St. Catharines, Ont.	Salisbury
*Brown Thrasher	"	1	1 Springbrook	Schafer
Robin	"	24	500 Highland-on-the-Lake	Freitags, Mrozek
*Wood Thrush	"	24	1 Hamburg	Rochester
	"	29	1 Kiantone	Pillsbury et al
Hermit Thrush	"	17F,18	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
*Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	"	30	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	"	12	1 Point Gratiot	Brownstein et al
Water Pipit	"	5	12 Langford	Rochester et al
<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	"	20,22	1 Thorold, Ont.	Salisbury et al
Cedar Waxwing	"	20,22	300 Thorold, Ont.	Salisbury et al
(maximum count for the month)				
Loggerhead Shrike	Apr.	10	1 Oak Orchard area	Wendlings
	"	24	1 Orangeville	Rosche et al
*Solitary Vireo	"	20	1 near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
	"	23	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	28	1 Eden	Bourne
*B.-&-wh. Warbler	"	20	1 Springbrook	Schafer
	"	28	1 Youngstown Cemetery	Thill
*Nashville Warbler	"	27	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
*Yellow Warbler	"	28	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	30	2 Jamestown area	Swanson
	"	30	1 Kiantone	Pillsbury
Myrtle Warbler	"	14F	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	20	3 near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
*Bl.-thr. G. Warbler	"	23	1 Hamburg	Rochester et al
	"	30	3 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
* <u>Pine Warbler</u>	"	21	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	22	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	23	1 East Aurora	Creighton
	"	25	1 Lake Akron	Rosche et al
*Palm Warbler	"	30	2 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Ovenbird	"	30	1 Belmont	Olmstead
*No. Waterthrush	"	24	1 Audubon Refuge, Java	Rochester et al
	"	24	1 Kiantone	Pillsbury
*Baltimore Oriole	"	28	1 Belmont	Burttons
Rusty Blackbird	"	18	520 Iroquois NWR	Brownstein et al
*Savannah Sparrow	"	3	2 Friendship	Burttons
*Grasshopper Spa.	"	26	1 Eden	Bourne
*Henslow's Sparrow	"	29	1 Eden	Bourne
Vesper Sparrow	"	1	1 Eden	Bourne
Slate-c. Junco	"	18	1500 Forestville to Town's Corners	Rew



Slate-c. Junco	Apr.	18	200 Oak Orchard area	Ulrichs et al
			(marked movement on this date)	
Chipping Sparrow	Apr.	19	3 Hanover	Brownstein et al
	"	20	1 Concord	Bourne
	"	20	20 Stockton	Pillsbury et al
White-cr. Sparrow	"	1-30	3 Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	1-30	1-2 Belmont (f)	Burtons
	"	21	3 Springbrook	Schafer

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded:	121
Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue:	<u>54</u>
Total for 1965:	175

STATISTICIANS' NOTES

1. In the Noteworthy Records the numerals immediately preceding the locality always refer to the number of individual birds carefully counted or carefully estimated. For example, a report that from April 1-30 the number of White-crowned Sparrows observed at a particular locality was 3-10 means that the smallest total number observed on any one day was 3, and the largest number on any one day was 10. It does not mean that the number believed to be present throughout the period was somewhere between 3 and 10. Observers are requested please to report numbers accordingly.

APRIL 1965 HAWK MIGRATIONS

The number of observers carefully reporting migrating hawks this month is unprecedented. Because there are so many interesting data available, they are presented in the following format rather than in the Noteworthy Records. Space does not permit printing all the valuable information submitted about the hawk movements this year. However, interested persons are urged to refer to the original reports found in the permanent B.O.S. files. - Compiler

April 3

S.shore L.Erie, Lake View to Portland  
Clark, Swarts

Turkey Vulture	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Red-tailed Hawk	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	30
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Sparrow Hawk	<u>2</u>
Total	43

April 3

S.shore L.Erie at Angola  
Rew, Rathbun

Red-tailed Hawk	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>8</u>
Total	12

April 6

St. Catharines, Ont.  
Salisbury

Red-shouldered Hawk	10
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Vol. 31, No. 5 - April 1965 Hawk Migrations (con't)

April 7

Port Weller, Ont.  
Salisbury

Turkey Vulture 18

April 8

Port Weller, Ont.  
Salisbury

Turkey Vulture 19

April 11

S.shore L.Erie, Allegany Rd., Hanover  
Brownstein, Grzybowski

Sharp-shinned Hawk 50

April 11

S.shore L.Erie, Lake View to Portland  
Clark et al

Turkey Vulture 1  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 57  
Red-tailed Hawk 8  
Marsh Hawk 18  
Osprey 3  
Sparrow Hawk 23  
Total 110

April 20

S.shore L.Erie, Hamburg to Silver Creek  
Rochester et al

Broad-winged Hawk 17  
Osprey 2  
Total 19

April 20

S.shore L.Erie, Allegany Rd., Hanover  
Grzybowski, Brownstein

Sharp-shinned Hawk 40  
Cooper's Hawk 2  
Broad-winged Hawk 168  
Pigeon Hawk 1  
Total 211

April 21

Como Park, Lancaster  
Grzybowski

Cooper's Hawk 5  
Broad-winged Hawk 138  
Pigeon Hawk 1  
Total 144

April 21

S.shore L.Erie, Hamburg-Hanover  
Bourne, Rochester et al

Broad-winged Hawk 127  
(110 going ne over Hamburg,  
8:30-9:00 A.M.)

April 21

S.shore L.Erie, Hamburg area  
Ulrichs, Bigelow

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1  
Broad-winged Hawk 6  
Total 7

April 22

Port Weller, Ont.  
Salisbury et al

Turkey Vulture 4  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 22  
Broad-winged Hawk 800  
Bald Eagle (imm.) 1  
Osprey 2  
Total 829

April 23

Hamburg  
Bourne, Rochester

Broad-winged Hawk 39  
(flying ne)

April 23

Town of Elma  
Coggeshall

Cooper's Hawk 1  
Broad-winged Hawk 22  
Sparrow Hawk 2  
Total 25



April 23

S. shore L. Erie, Portland  
Clark, Bosserman

Sharp-shinned Hawk	7
Red-tailed Hawk	6
Broad-winged Hawk	327
Osprey	3
Total	343

(temp. 40; wind NNE, 10-15 m.p.h.)

April 24

South shore Lake Erie  
Rew et al

Sharp-shinned Hawk	8
Red-tailed Hawk	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	2
Broad-winged Hawk	530
Total	544

April 25

S. shore L. Erie, Highland-on-the-Lake  
Rew, Rathbun

Cooper's Hawk	1
Broad-winged Hawk	52
Total	53

April 25

Bennington  
Rosche et al

Cooper's Hawk	2
Broad-winged Hawk	4
Total	6

April 25

Clarence  
McKales

Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Broad-winged Hawk	23
Total	25

April 25

Jordan Harbour, Ont.  
Salisbury, Dorst

Turkey Vulture	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	29
Red-tailed Hawk	11
Broad-winged Hawk	490
Rough-legged Hawk	4
Osprey	1
Pigeon Hawk	1
Total	537

April 29

Port Weller, Ont.  
Tulinoffs

Sharp-shinned Hawk	15
Cooper's Hawk	7
Red-tailed Hawk	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	3
Broad-winged Hawk	3
Rough-legged Hawk	4
Pigeon Hawk	2
Sparrow Hawk	2
Total	42

April 29

Youngstown Cemetery  
Thill

Sharp-shinned Hawk	17
Broad-winged Hawk	103
Bald Eagle (imm.)	1
Marsh Hawk	3
Total	124

April 29

S. shore L. Erie, Allegany Rd., Hanover  
Freitags

Turkey Vulture	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	4
Broad-winged Hawk	669
Osprey	2
unidentified	2
Total	685

(wind WSW, 10 m.p.h. on ground;  
10:00 A.M. - 12:38 P.M.)

BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION by Clark S. Beardslee and Harold D. Mitchell.  
Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Vol. 22

Reviewed by Stephen W. Eaton  
Dept. of Biology, St. Bonaventure University

The big event in the bird world of 1965 on the Niagara Frontier is not the sighting of a rare bird but the appearance of this publication. It is the culmination of work started thirty-five years ago when the authors, as statisticians of the newly formed Buffalo Ornithological Society, recognized the need for an up-to-date checklist and organized the work which resulted. This companion volume to the Flora of the Niagara Frontier by Charles Zenkert will be an impetus to learn more about the natural history and particularly the bird life of the area. In a broader sense this will in turn produce a greater appreciation and more effective conservation of our dwindling habitats and wildlife. With this publication the authors have contributed to the sophistication of this region just as Ludlow Griscom, Allen Cruickshank and John Bull have made their contributions to the New York City area.

The book may be purchased from the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Buffalo, N.Y. for ten dollars (\$10.00) in hard cover or for nine dollars (\$9.00) in soft cover. There are 478 pages, 78 devoted to introductory materials and 400 to the annotated list. The size is octavo and it is printed in readable type with extreme dates in bold face, the whole placed on glossy paper. The illustrations include a cover design by Fred T. Hall, a useful map by Robert F. Andrle and David M. Bigelow and several photographs of habitats and rare birds. The emphasis is on documentation of migrants through the area, species of rare occurrence, nesting dates and distribution. It is primarily, as the title suggests, an annotated checklist so one does not necessarily expect a great deal of generalization on such topics as ecology, zoogeography and breeding biology but some may be disappointed.

As this is intended as a constructive review this attempt will be made to point out weaknesses and omissions with the objective of helping the crystalization of the next step in our understanding of birds on the Niagara Frontier. For this purpose I have selected three areas of review - ecology, taxonomy and literature.

In attempting to force the breeding bird fauna into a modified version of the life zone concept (pp. 13-16) the authors, in this reviewer's opinion, made a mistake. Rather than to help explain bird distribution their treatment tends to mask the real situation. It might have been well here to paraphrase W.E. Clyde Todd (Birds of Western Pennsylvania) in describing the bird distribution of today. Birds have entered the area, after the withdrawal of the Pleistocene ice, from the south. One route was along the main ridge of the Appalachian chain into first Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties and points north. Another route of invasion may have been along the western flanks of this highland into Chautauqua County and finally lower areas along Lake Erie to the Buffalo Region as Lake Whittlesey and then Lake Warren subsided. Another invasion route of perhaps lesser proportions may have come up the Susquehanna and Mohawk valleys into the Lake Ontario Plain. Other birds in more recent times have invaded from the west along the Canadian shore. Each species moved in as its particular



habitat developed following retreat of the ice. The great land of Appalachia was the dominant physiographic feature in controlling this invasion. True, the Great Lakes tend to concentrate birds on migration into the mouth of the funnel near Buffalo, but it is the great and ancient Appalachian system which has had the most influence on the distribution of breeding birds in Western New York by serving as a pathway for some and a diverting barrier to those lowland forms coming from the southwest and southeast.

I can quibble about certain minor ecological flaws such as the Goshawk's nest which was in the main crotch of a beech instead of a maple (p. 162). Barred Owls and Great Horned Owls do not in my experience... "inhabitat much the same localities." ... They are sympatric but occupy quite different microhabitats and seem mutually exclusive. The Great Horned Owl does not occur over much of the unglaciated portion which is solidly covered by forest. Here the Barred Owl holds forth. The Great Horned is found in the Allegheny River valley and larger tributary valleys where cottontails thrive but not back in the woods. The Red-headed Woodpecker (p. 294) is listed as a fairly common summer resident, locally; on the other hand, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is called an uncommon summer resident. The application of these two summaries to the entire Niagara Frontier is hard to swallow. It would have been better to recognize three rather distinct subregions of the area, (1) the Lake Plain, (2) the Glaciated Allegheny Plateau from the Portage escarpment to approximately the Allegheny River and (3) the High Plateau or unglaciated Allegheny Plateau, and then to describe the breeding abundance on this basis. The Black-and-white Warbler is called an uncommon summer resident yet in the oak woods along the Allegheny River it is certainly an abundant summer resident according to the abundance criteria. The Louisiana Waterthrush has been a fairly common breeder along the wooded streams of Cattaraugus County for the 15 years I have hiked the hills yet in the book we read that it is an uncommon summer resident. The breeding abundance of the following warblers (not mentioned above) seem to be underrated from my experience with them on the High Plateau: Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning, Yellow-breasted Chat and Canada Warbler.

Subspecific treatment follows the conservative 5th. edition of the A.O.U. checklist which is now almost 10 years old. It seems awkward, hair splitting and often misleading to discuss each subspecies under a separate heading. We find the Ruffed Grouse under three headings or write-ups yet it is questionable whether there are more than two subspecies present, Bonasa umbellus togata on the lake plain and B.u. monticola on the Allegheny Plateau (Aldrich, Geographic Orientation of American Tetraonidae - Jour. Wildlife Management, Vol. 27, 1963, see also A.O.U. checklist).

There has been little systematic collecting to determine in a precise way the subspecific status of certain species which might be of help in determining the zoogeographic origin of certain forms. For example, where did the Western Henslow's Sparrows meet the Eastern subspecies - east of our area or within its borders? Does the Red-winged Blackbird of the Jamestown area resemble the Mississippi Valley populations or those of the east? The same might be applied to the Song Sparrow, Northern Waterthrush and others. The Junco, which breeds on the Allegheny Plateau is an intermediate population between Junco hyemalis carolinensis and J.h. hyemalis according to Alden Miller's monograph yet the authors, by following the A.O.U. to the letter, call our bird J.h. hyemalis with no indication of its southern accent. There is still much to be learned on the Niagara Frontier about the microtaxonomy of birds which I hope someone, with



such an inclination, will carry out systematically.

Much work has gone into a search of the local literature but it seems to me that many works have been omitted which could have contributed to the picture. These generally appeared in journals of broader scope such as John Emlen's paper on the winter distribution of Crows in New York State published in Ecology. Some records of interest to me which have not been included are a couple of notes in the Auk by Dean Amadon from Franklinville, and Teres' paper on the dying of owls in winter. Bump's work on the Ruffed Grouse is never directly cited, Zenkert's flora does not seem to appear, and perhaps the most serious lapsus is the omission of W.E. Clyde Todd's near classic, Birds of Western Pennsylvania.

But it is easy to "Sunday Morning quarterback", much tougher to play the actual game. Ornithologists of Western New York are fortunate to have such a volume as this on birds. It is a scholarly work, with very few typographical errors and a contribution which will help us all to appreciate and conserve our precious avifauna.

#### ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

##### Report of the April Bird Count

Date: April 4, 1965

Weather Conditions: A ridge of high pressure was stationary in Western New York and adjacent Ontario and all observers reported weather conditions as sunny and clear. The U.S. Weather Bureau at Buffalo reported a low temperature of 23 degrees F. and a high of 45 degrees F. for that locality. There was no precipitation; the wind velocity did not exceed 10 m.p.h.

Species Recorded: Figures in parentheses indicate division numbers where the species was observed when it was reported in three or fewer divisions. Underlined common names indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1961) and its Supplement, has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

##### Loons - Mergansers:

Common Loon	6 (5,7,16)	Blue-winged Teal	8 (13,21,26)
Pied-billed Grebe	9	American Widgeon	107
Great Blue Heron	44	Shoveler	2 (21)
American Bittern	1 (28)	Wood Duck	77
Whistling Swan	74	Redhead	438
Canada Goose	39734	Ring-necked Duck	96
Blue Goose	3 (10)	Canvasback	571
Mallard	292	Greater Scaup	304
Black Duck	768	Lesser Scaup	466
Gadwall	5 (20)	Common Goldeneye	755
Pintail	387	Bufflehead	435
*Green-winged Teal	32	White-winged Scoter	11 (5,21)



Vol. 31, No. 5 - April Bird Count (con't)

Surf Scoter	1 (5)
Ruddy Duck	2 (21)
Hooded Merganser	141

Common Merganser	1147
Red-br. Merganser	281

Vulture - Rails:

Turkey Vulture	56
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8
Cooper's Hawk	12
Red-tailed Hawk	103
Red-shouldered Hawk	87
Rough-legged Hawk	27
Marsh Hawk	25

*Peregrine Falcon	3 (14,20)
Sparrow Hawk	111
Ruffed Grouse	25
Ring-n. Pheasant	84
Turkey	37 (27,28)
American Coot	17 (3,4,10)

Plovers - Terns:

Killdeer	733
American Woodcock	26
Common Snipe	1 (8)
*Greater Yellowlegs	2 (14,16)

Great Black-b. Gull	59
Herring Gull	1066
Ring-billed Gull	3012

Doves - Swallows:

Rock Dove	363
Mourning Dove	260
Barn Owl	1 (14)
Great Horned Owl	6
Snowy Owl	1 (8)
Barred Owl	1 (23)
Long-eared Owl	2 (4)
Short-eared Owl	12
Belted Kingfisher	54
Yellow-sh. Flicker	29

Pileated Woodpecker	17
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2 (13)
Red-headed Woodpecker	1 (10)
*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1 (27)
Hairy Woodpecker	79
Downy Woodpecker	229
Eastern Phoebe	32
H.Lark ( <u>alpestris</u> )	3 (4,14)
H.Lark ( <u>praticola</u> )	416
*Tree Swallow	4 (2)

Jays - Starling:

Blue Jay	528
Common Crow	2574
Black-c. Chickadee	689
Tufted Titmouse	1 (8)
White-br. Nuthatch	184
Red-br. Nuthatch	2 (13)
Brown Creeper	22
*Winter Wren	3 (27)
Mockingbird	1 (11)
Brown Thrasher	2 (27)

Robin	7300
Eastern Bluebird	59
Golden-cr. Kinglet	26
*Ruby-cr. Kinglet	3 (10)
*Water Pipit	3 (14,16)
Cedar Waxwing	419
Northern Shrike	3 (5,7,21)
Loggerhead Shrike	3 (14,15,21)
Starling	49906

House Sparrow - Fringillids:

House Sparrow	5351
Eastern Meadowlark	1433
Red-w. Blackbird	79382
Rusty Blackbird	720
Common Grackle	30480
Brown-h. Cowbird	6606

Cardinal	290
Evening Grosbeak	21 (27)
Purple Finch	80
Common Redpoll	6 (21,28)
American Goldfinch	299
Rufous-sided Towhee	4

Savannah Sparrow	11	White-cr. Sparrow	19
Vesper Sparrow	16	White-thr. Sparrow	9
Slate-c. Junco	712	Fox Sparrow	7
Tree Sparrow	937	Swamp Sparrow	6 (5,13,14)
*Chipping Sparrow	28 (23,28)	Song Sparrow	1695
Field Sparrow	20 (9,23,28)	Lapland Longspur	10

Miscellaneous: unidentified ducks, 1800; unidentified hawks, 6. GRAND TOTAL, 112 species; about 272,948 individuals.

Sectional Divisions and Observers: The following divisions are those defined by the map "Sectional Divisions of the Territory of the Buffalo Ornithological Society" (1956). The list gives the number of each division and the name of a place located in that division. Underlined names denote the individuals or group responsible for the coverage of each division.

1. Fonthill, Ont. - not covered
2. Thorold, Ont. - Mr. Fred Salisbury
3. Wilson, N.Y. - not covered
4. Middleport, N.Y. - G. John Lehrer, Mabel Lehrer, Greg Hammond
5. Oak Orchard, N.Y. - James Braunberns, Mary Louise and Marjorie Emerson
6. Port Maitland, Ont. - Joseph Thill, Kathleen Thill
7. Lowbanks, Ont. - Richard Brownstein, Carl Mrozek
8. Fort Erie, Ont. - Dr. R.L. Sommerville, Mrs. Mark J. Samuels, Harold Axtell, Rachel Axtell
9. Grand Island, N.Y. - John McCormick, Charles H. McCormick, Edwin A. Mabbette
10. Akron, N.Y. - Harold D. Mitchell, Joe Grzybowski, David Thompson
11. Buffalo, N.Y. - Dr. Arthur Freitag, Richard C. Rosche, Dorothy Gellermann
12. Lancaster, N.Y. - Marie Wendling, Margaret Wendling, Gertrude Webster Katrina Schwenger, A. Brown, Mrs. Fred Danner, G. Newton, Mrs. Harry C. Schafer
13. Batavia, N.Y. - Mrs. O.L. Pixley, George Buckland, Max Mason, June Mason, George Mahaney, Don Thureau, David Thompson
14. Hamburg, N.Y. - Thomas L. Bourne, Mrs. Thomas Bourne, Mrs. R. William Rochester, Mrs. James Creighton, Mrs. John Bacon, Richard Brownstein, Carl Mrozek, Fred T. Hall
15. Java, N.Y. - East Aurora Bird Club: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Reuther, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Neischel, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lange, Mr. and Mrs. John McMahon, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Loersch
16. Angola, N.Y. - Frances M. Rew, Frances Rathbun, Richard Brownstein, Carl Mrozek
17. Cattaraugus, N.Y. - not covered
18. Delevan, N.Y. - not covered
19. Fillmore, N.Y. - Harold Freund
20. Dunkirk, N.Y. - Richard E. Miga, Don Duckitt, R.H. Hesselbart, Dr. Willard F. Stanley
21. Cherry Creek, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Jennie Freeman, Calla Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Patchen, Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Burgeson, Corl Belknap, Annabelle Hiller, Ruth Ahrens, Clarence M. Beal
22. Sherman, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Mrs. Victor Gastol, Mr. and Mr. Francis Patchen, Mr. and Mrs. Elderkin, Rev. and Mrs. James Potter



23. Frewsburg, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Mrs. Elizabeth Pillsbury, Douglas Pillsbury, Annabelle Hiller, Ruth Ahrens, Jack and William Gulvin, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Findley, Corl Belknap
24. Allegany Park, N.Y. - not covered
25. Allegany, N.Y. - not covered
26. Cuba Lake, N.Y. - Allegany County Bird Club: Mr. & Mrs. Henning B. von Arnim, Miss Mary Louise Moser, Fred Meyer, D.P. Curcio, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Hall
27. Bolivar, N.Y. - Allegany County Bird Club: Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rulison, Mrs. John J. Richbury, Harold and Dan Babcock, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keople, Mr. and Mrs. Royce Norton, Thomas Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richmond, Mr. Arnold Watkins
28. Alfred, N.Y. - Allegany County Bird Club: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Burdick, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Smith, Mrs. Katherine Palmer, Mrs. Dorothy Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore McClure, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Casterline, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McClure, Mr. and Mrs. Riley Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Huffcut, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Tuttle, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Common, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Coats, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pitzrick, Shirley Vossler, Edward and Howell Rayburn, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Foster, Dr. Gaylord Rough, Mr. L.A. Deverell, Miss Helen Thomas, Miss Eva Ford, Dr. and Mrs. Murray Rice, Mrs. Walter Schogoleff, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gerace, Dr. and Mrs. C.E. Rhodes, Dr. Clarence Klingensmith.

The leader wishes to express his gratitude and thanks to all who participated in the Count. Particular thanks to the Jamestown Audubon Society, East Aurora Bird Club and the Allegany County Bird Club for their fine cooperation in covering their areas so thoroughly. - Joseph F. Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217.

#### NOTES AND NEWS

The new Third Edition of the B.O.S. Verification Date Guide (1965) is now available. Copies may be purchased for \$.50 from the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cummisley have given to the Fred P. Hazelton Library a copy of Audubon's BIRDS OF AMERICA, the 1942 edition by the MacMillan Company. We are indeed grateful for the gift of this beautiful book.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

July 18 - Annual Shorebird Count. For details call the leader, Edward L. Seeber (TT 6-2320 ext. 623).

Aug. 21 - Joint trip with the Buffalo Audubon Society to visit bird sanctuaries in the Jamestown area and the martin roost in the evening. Meet 12:30 P.M. at Cleveland Drive entrance to New York State Thruway or at 2:30 P.M. at Lakeview Cemetery, Buffalo Street, Jamestown. The group will meet the Jamestown Audubon Society who will be our host. Leader, Gertrude G. Webster (TF 3-7768).

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Richard C. Rosche, 48 Dartmouth Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14215

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092

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EDITOR: Richard C. Rosche, 48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14215



# The PROTHONOTARY

Volume 31  
Number 6

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1965



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## THE MONTH

May was warm, with the average temperature 4.8 degrees above normal. Most of this excess heat was concentrated in the first half. The last three days were unseasonably cold, with frost on the morning of the 30th. Precipitation was 1.21 inches, which is 1.74 inches below the mean for May.

Birding was poor. After the first two days there were no "pile-ups" of migrants, and birders who tried for big day counts got disappointingly short lists of species. There were apparently three days that were not so poor as the rest; these were the 1st, 2nd, and 16th. On the first two days many seasonal migrants arrived, as well as numbers of birds which had been discouraged from migrating earlier by the unusually cold weather of April. In the latter category Flickers were especially notable by their scarcity in April and their sudden great influx during the first two days of May. A comment on certain weather conditions associated with this migration wave may be pertinent. Although the minimum temperature on the morning of the 1st was the lowest of the month, the warming trend was so pronounced that the maximum thermometer reading that same day was higher than in any day of the previous month. On the next day, May 2, the maximum was ten degrees still higher!

The 16th was the day of the B.O.S. May Bird Count, and participants reported that there were very few migrants compared with the middle part of May in other years. Yet, according to several indications, there was no other day this season when such a variety of species was present. Though a poor day, it apparently was the best that could have been chosen. The maximum temperature on this day was the highest of the month. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations



Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	May	8	2 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	8,15	2,1 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	"	22	1 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	"	24	2 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	"	24	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
D.-cr. Cormorant	"	6F	1 over Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	15	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	23	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Common Egret	"	22,23	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
B.-cr. Night Heron	"	12	5 Grand Island	Webster, Wolfe
Least Bittern	"	23	1 Mud Lake, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	23	1 Mud Lake, Ont.	Rosche et al
<u>Mute Swan</u>	"	30	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Whistling Swan	"	5-12	1 Wellsville	Burtens
"	"	23	1 Featherstone Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
"	"	30	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Canada Goose	"	18	2 Kiantone	Rew, Swanson
*Brant	"	23	28 Featherstone Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Snow Goose	"	1L	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
"	"	1L	1 Tonawanda GMA	Brownstein et al
Gadwall	"	22	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein, Burger
"	"	23	1 Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
Pintail	"	23	3 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein
"	"	24	2 Mud Lake, Ont.	Andrle et al
Green-w. Teal	"	23	4 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
"	"	24	2 Mud Lake, Ont.	Andrle et al
Shoveler	"	1,23	30,1 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
"	"	8	1 South Park, Buffalo	Rew, Rathbun
"	"	19	1 Beaver Island St. Park	Brownstein
Wood Duck	"	12	2 Tiffet Street, Buffalo	Andrle
Redhead	"	23	2 Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
Greater Scaup	"	23	1 Featherstone Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Bufflehead	"	24	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
Oldsquaw	"	24	4 Grant Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
White-w. Scoter	"	15	34 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Common Merganser	"	30	52 Featherstone Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	2	19 Barcelona	Rew, Buck
"	"	2	20 Dunkirk	Grzybowski et al
"	"	2	1 Derby	Ulrichs, Lovelace
"	"	9	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Cooper's Hawk	"	2	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
"	"	2	1 Town of Portland	Rew, Buck
"	"	5	3 over Eden	Bourne
"	"	6	1 Hamburg	Danner, Schafer
Broad-w. Hawk	"	6	3 Foote Rd., E. Concord	Andrle et al
"	"	13	1 McCarty Hill	Andrle, Bourne
"	"	23	1 Yorkshire	Brownstein, Burger
"	"	23	1 Tonawanda Indian Res.	Brownstein, Burger
Rough-l. Hawk	"	1	5 Ontario Plain	Brownstein et al



Vol. 31, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Bald Eagle	May	9	1 Cattaraugus Indian Res.	Websters
	(adult)			
Pigeon Hawk	May	2	2 Barcelona	Rew, Buck
Bobwhite	"	15	1 <u>Williston Rd., Marilla</u>	Webster et al
	"	23	3 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
Turkey	"	13	1 McClure Hollow, Allegany	Wendlings
	"	23	6 Allegany State Park	Brownstein et al
	"	29	1 Town of Wirt	von Arnims
Virginia Rail	"	1	2 Wainfleet, Ont.	Rosche, Gellermann
Common Gallinule	"	8	3 South Park, Buffalo	Rew, Rathbun
Semipalm. Plover	"	22	6 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
	"	22	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
Black-b. Plover	"	23	18 Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
	"	30	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
*Ruddy Turnstone	"	11	4 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
*Whimbrel	"	23	550 Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
	"	23	2 Windmill Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
	"	23	5 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
	"	24	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	24	35 Willow Bay, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	30	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Gr. Yellowlegs	"	19L	1 Beaver Island St. Park	Brownstein, Burger
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	23	1 Wolcottsville	Brownstein et al
*Knot	"	23	2 Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
*Wh.-r. Sandpiper	"	23	1 Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
	"	28	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
*Least Sandpiper	"	15,20	1,2 Langford	Bourne
Dunlin	"	20	750 Waverly Beach, Ont.	Axtell
	(see note below)			
	May	23	600 Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
*S.-b. Dowitcher	May	15	46 Canadian shore Lake Erie	Brownstein et al
Semi. Sandpiper	May	22	25 Canadian shore Lake Erie	Rosche et al
	"	30	1500 Rockhouse Point to Featherstone Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Sanderling	"	22	6 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
	"	24	22 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
Glaucous Gull	"	12L	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Gr. B.-b. Gull	"	30	4 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Bonaparte's Gull	"	30	614 Rockhouse Point to Featherstone Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Caspian Tern	"	2	1 Barcelona	Rew, Buck
	"	2	1 Point Gratiot	Grzybowski et al
	"	2	5 Angola	Ulrichs, Lovelace
	"	7	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Webster et al
	"	15	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	23	1 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Rosche et al
*Black Tern	"	8	1 Alfred	Burtens et al
	"	8	14 South Park, Buffalo	Rew, Rathbun
Y.-b. Cuckoo	"	18	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
*B.-b. Cuckoo	"	7	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Webster et al
	"	7	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	9	1 Springbrook	Danner
Barn Owl	"	11	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	23	1 Hamburg	Brownstein et al
*Whip-poor-will	"	2	1 Point Gratiot	Brownstein et al

*Whip-poor-will	May	2,3	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	9	5 Wainfleet, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
"	"	25	1 Hamburg	Bourne
*Common Nighthawk	"	10	2 over Buffalo	Rosche
*R.-t. Hummingbird	"	1	1 Springbrook	Danner
"	"	6	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Y.-sh. Flicker	"	2	450 Dunkirk	Grzybowski et al
Red-b. Woodpecker	"	1	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
"	"	23	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
Y.-b. Sapsucker	"	22L	1 Cedar St., Akron	Brownstein
*Gr. Crested Fly.	"	1	1 Springbrook	Danner
"	"	2	2 Point Gratiot	Brownstein, Mrozek
Y.-b. Flycatcher	"	18	2 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
Traill's Flycatcher	"	18-31	1-3 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
*Least Flycatcher	"	2	2 Point Gratiot	Brownstein, Mrozek
"	"	2	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
"	"	2	3 Buffalo	A. Freitag
"	"	3	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
*E. Wood Pewee	"	12	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Rosche, Gellermann
*O.-s. Flycatcher	May	9	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski, Mrozek
"	May	24	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
"	"	25	1 Springbrook	Danner, Schafer
"	"	27	1 Eden	Bourne
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	1	1 Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	13,31	2 McCarty Hill	Andrle et al
Brown Creeper	"	6	1 Foote Rd., E. Concord	Andrle et al
S.-b. Marsh Wren	"	20	1 Langford	Bourne
"	"	23	1 Wolcottsville Sinks	Brownstein et al
Mockingbird	"	3	1 Eden	Bourne
"	"	5	1 Cazenovia Park, Buffalo	Rybczynski
"	"	9	1 Cottage	Websters
"	"	20	1 Cattaraugus Indian Res.	Wendlings, Webster
"	"	23	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
*Catbird	"	2	1 South shore Lake Erie	Ulrichs, Lovelace
"	"	3	1 Belmont	Burtens
*Swainson's Thrush	"	1	1 Buffalo	Wendlings et al
"	"	11	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
*Gray-ch. Thrush	"	11	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	"	22	2 Delaware Park, Buffalo	Mitchell
"	"	24	2 Athol Springs	Bourne
*Veery	"	2	1 Springbrook	Danner
"	"	2	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	2	3 near Dunkirk	Grzybowski et al
"	"	7	6 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Webster et al
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	"	2	1 South shore Lake Erie	Ulrichs, Lovelace
"	"	3	1 Springbrook	Danner, Schafer
"	"	7	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Webster et al
"	"	23	1 Audubon Refuge, Java	Mitchell
"	"	23	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Golden-cr. Kinglet	"	13	2 McCarty Hill	Andrle, Bourne
"	May	31	4 McCarty Hill	Andrle
Loggerhead Shrike	May	1	2 Yates, Orleans Co.	Brownstein et al
*Y.-thr. Vireo	"	3	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
"	"	9	1 Hickox Rd., Hamburg	Andrle
*Red-eyed Vireo	"	9	1 Hamburg	Bourne



Vol. 31, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

*Red-eyed Vireo	May	9	2 Springbrook	Danner
*Phil. Vireo	"	9	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski, Mrozek
	"	11	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Wendlings, Webster
	"	11	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	"	15	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	18	2 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	A. Freitag
	"	24	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	29	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
*Warbling Vireo	"	2	6 South shore Lake Erie	Brownstein et al
	"	3	1 East Aurora	Rosche, Gellermann
*Prothonotary Warb.	"	22,23	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
*Golden-w. Warbler	"	6	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Andrle et al
	"	7	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Webster et al
	"	11	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	"	12	2 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	18	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	A. Freitag et al
	"	22	4 Tonawanda Indian Res.	Brownstein et al
	"	24	2 Dunnville, Ont.	Andrle et al
*Blue-w. Warbler	"	3	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	9	1 Hickox Rd., Hamburg	Andrle
	"	9	1 Belmont	Burtens
	"	11	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Wendlings, Webster
*"Brewster's Warb."	"	11	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Wendlings, Webster
	"	11	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	"	15	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Mitchell
	"	18	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	A. Freitag et al
	"	18	1 Town of Arkwright	Rew, Swanson
*Tenn. Warbler	"	6	3 Chestnut Ridge Park	Andrle et al
	"	9	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	A. Freitag
	"	29	1 Hamburg	Bourne
*Orange-cr. Warb.	"	9	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	A. Freitag
	"	10	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	14	1 McClure Hollow, Allegany	Wendlings
Nashville Warbler	"	2	1 Springbrook	Danner
*Parula Warbler	"	7	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Webster et al
	"	25	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
*Magnolia Warbler	"	6	2 Tonawanda	A. Freitag et al
	"	7	2 East Aurora	Schafer
*Cape May Warbler	"	2	1 Point Gratiot	Grzybowski et al
	"	7	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
	"	7	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Webster et al
*Bl.-thr.Blue Warb.	"	2	1 Point Gratiot	Grzybowski et al
	"	6	2 Chestnut Ridge Park	Andrle et al
Myrtle Warbler	May	31	1 McCarty Hill	Andrle
*Cerulean Warbler	May	6	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	7	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	20	4 Taylor Hollow, Hamburg	Wendlings, Webster
*Blackburnian Warb.	"	2	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	"	2,4	1-2 Springbrook	Danner
*Chest.-s. Warbler	"	2	2 Springbrook	Danner
	"	3	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Bay-br. Warbler	"	7	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Webster et al
	"	7	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Webster et al
	"	8	1 Alfred	Burtens et al
Blackpoll Warbler	"	20-31	1 Williamsville	Wendlings

Vol. 31, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Pine Warbler	May	2	3 Dunkirk	Grzybowski et al
	May	15	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Webster et al
*Prairie Warbler	May	13,14	1 McClure Hollow, Allegany	Wendlings
Ovenbird	May	2	1 Hanford Bay	Grzybowski et al
	"	2	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	A. Freitag
No. Waterthrush	"	6	2 Foote Rd., E. Concord	Andrle et al
*La. Waterthrush	"	2	1 Emery Park	Rosche et al
	"	11	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
*Kentucky Warbler	"	23	1 Allegany State Park	Brownstein et al
*Mourning Warbler	"	12	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Rosche, Gellermann
	"	18	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	A. Freitag
*Yellowthroat	"	5	1 Belmont	Burtens
	"	6	2 Eden	Bourne
*Yellow-br. Chat	"	15	1 Belmont	Burtens
	"	18,25	1 Orchard Park	Bourne
Hooded Warbler	"	18	2 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
*Wilson's Warbler	"	9	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	A. Freitag
	"	29	2 Eden	Bourne
*Canada Warbler	"	8	1 Alfred	Burtens et al
	"	8,9	2 Springbrook	Schafer
*Am. Redstart	"	6	5 Eden	Bourne
	"	7	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Webster et al
	"	7	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Webster et al
*Bobolink	"	2	6 Dunkirk	Brownstein et al
	"	2	1 Town of Portland	Rew, Buck
	"	5	2 Eden	Bourne
	"	5	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	5	6 Belmont	Burtens
*Orchard Oriole	"	10	1 <u>Hamburg</u>	Andrles
	"	11	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	"	23	1 Featherstone Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Baltimore Oriole	"	2	14 South shore Lake Erie	Brownstein et al
	"	2	1 Water Valley	Bourne
	"	2	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	A. Freitag
*Scarlet Tanager	"	2	1 Point Gratiot	Brownstein et al
	"	7	6 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Webster et al
*Rose-br. Grosbeak	"	2	20 South shore Lake Erie	Brownstein et al
	"	2	1 Arcade	Rosche et al
	"	2	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	2	2 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	A. Freitag
	"	6	2 Eden	Bourne
	"	6	2 Springbrook	Danner, Schafer
	"	6	1 Buffalo	A. Freitag et al
*Indigo Bunting	"	6	2 Belmont	Burtens
	"	8	1 Derby	Mitchell et al
*Red Crossbill	"	11	2 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
Henslow's Sparrow	"	2	1 Bowmansville	Grzybowski et al
Tree Sparrow	"	2	3 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	2	2 Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	4	2 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	6L	1 Springbrook	Schafer
*Lincoln's Sparrow	"	5	2 Eden	Bourne
	"	8,9	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	11	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Wendlings, Webster
	"	15	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Mitchell



Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded:	175
Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue:	<u>67</u>
Total for 1965:	242

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#### STATISTICIANS' NOTES

1. It has recently come to our attention that the western boundary of the Buffalo Ornithological Society territory in Ontario between Rainham Centre and the north shore of Lake Erie is not defined in the Constitution of the Society. Since questions have arisen concerning observations in that locality, the Statisticians have decided for the purpose of bird records to define the boundary there as a line following the road running southerly from Rainham Centre to the lake shore road and then southwesterly along the latter road to the west base of Miller Point at the shore (see map of Section 6 of the Buffalo Ornithological Society territory). By this delineation recent and subsequent records of birds from "Featherstone Point" (Miller Point) will be considered within the Society's territory. It is suggested that the Constitution be eventually amended accordingly if the Society approves of this clarification.

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#### GENERAL NOTES

A note on an extraordinarily large number of Dunlins. - On May 20, 1965, at about 6:15 p.m. I drove onto the beach at Waverly Beach, Ontario, on the north shore of Lake Erie about three miles southwest of the Peace Bridge, and found there the largest aggregation of Dunlins I had ever seen in the Niagara Frontier Region, and, according to Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965, previously exceeded by only one record of an estimated 1,000, one May 30, 1958, mostly at Rockhouse Point (Nathan, Brownstein).

I carefully counted bird by bird those that were present, about 90 to 95% of which were within an area averaging about 40 or 50 ft. in diameter, and all of the rest of which were within an additional 100 ft. approximately. I had just completed this count, which came to a total of a few more than 500 Dunlins, about 20 Semipalmated Plover, and 2 Least Sandpipers, and had barely lowered my binoculars when I saw a large dense flock of additional Dunlins approaching. Before they lit among the flock I had just counted I had time to, and did hastily count ten, then five "areas" of ten estimated, and then with a concept of fifty, dividing the entire flock into units of estimated fifties, getting five such units that appeared about equal so that my total considered estimate of the number in this flying flock was 250. Added to the 500 or slightly more that were present at first, this brought the total up to about 750 Dunlins, largely by count and partly by careful estimate. The typical Dunlin size, body, leg and bill proportions, and breeding coloration were well noted on all individuals. In almost daily visits to this spot during the last half of May, 1965, including the previous evening and the following morning, no other Dunlins were seen. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

Wood Duck preys upon Mallard. - On an afternoon ride through Forest Lawn Cemetery in late February I stopped at the creek where a lady with three toungesters had just thrown some bread crusts to the wintering ducks there. To my sudden surprise I saw a male wood duck grab a crust from a male mallard and make off with it. It happened so quickly that whether from astonishment or indulgence the mallard let him get away with it. Scurrying to the edge of the water the colorful wood duck gobbled away and the larger drake sought another crust. - Gertrude G. Webster, 198 Marjorie Drive, Kenmore, New York.

Loggerhead Shrike takes Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. - After finding the carcasses of various birds and animals over the years impaled on either barbed wire fences or the woody spikes of the Hawthorne (Crataegus sp.) without ever seeing for myself the author of such strange and stark handiwork, the unique ritual was finally enacted before me. On August 15, 1964 near Byng, Ontario, an adult Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus) was observed stop the highest strand of a barbed-wire fence which circumambiented a freshly plowed field. The bird shortly dropped to the ground behind a furrow where it was momentarily obscured from view. Suddenly it reappeared carrying a small brownish bird in its bill, which it had clasped by the nape. The shrike hopped from the middle to the highest strand, and adroitly juxtaposed a barbed segment between its body and that of its victim. It then leaned backward, skillfully tugging the body on the barbed segment, where it became firmly impaled. It then proceeded to feed upon the carcass, but after a short while ceased and began to sing from the same perch. At that time the bird was approached and its victim retrieved. Examination proved the carcass to be that of an adult Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (Empidonax flaviventris), which had its entire cranial cavity emptied with only the left eye remaining in the skull. Otherwise the bird was unmarked, with its body still warm and the eye moist and unglazed.

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is principally a bird of mature or second growth woodland, and even in migration is seldom found far from adequate cover. Its presence in the middle of a plowed field, easily a half-mile from suitable habitat, leads the writer to suspect that the kill was made some distance from the feeding perch. The shrike would then have carried its prey, almost two-thirds its size, a distance of one-half mile or more. - Richard Brownstein, 207 Hartford Road, Buffalo, New York.



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESReport of the May Bird CountDate: May 16, 1965

Weather Conditions: The weather was generally warm and humid, temperatures ranging from 60 degrees in the early morning to 84 degrees in the afternoon. It was alternately sunny and overcast, except for short local showers, which continued throughout the day, some territories reporting them in the morning, others in the afternoon. Winds varied from 5 to 30 m.p.h.

Species Recorded: Figures in parentheses indicate division numbers where the species was observed when it was recorded in three or fewer divisions. An asterisk (\*) preceding the name of a species indicates the first record for the year. Underlined common names indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Loons - Mergansers:

Common Loon	9	Blue-winged Teal	68
Horned Grebe	3 (19,26,28)	American Widgeon	59
Pied-billed Grebe	8	Shoveler	3 (9,13)
Double-cr. Cormorant	1 (6)	Wood Duck	69
Great Blue Heron	62	Redhead	7 (7)
Green Heron	61	Canvasback	2 (6)
*Common Egret	2 (5)	Greater Scaup	27 (7,9)
Black-cr. N. Heron	52 (7,9)	Lesser Scaup	50
*Least Bittern	2 (23)	Common Goldeneye	4 (6,7)
American Bittern	13	Bufflehead	9 (10,13,21)
Whistling Swan	7 (5,7,28)	Oldsquaw	4 (6,7)
Canada Goose	45	White-winged Scoter	7 (7)
Mallard	166	Hooded Merganser	3 (18,21)
Black Duck	53	Common Merganser	3 (6,7)
Pintail	2 (6,7)	Red-br. Merganser	116 (6,7,8)
Green-winged Teal	11		

Vulture - Rails:

Turkey Vulture	44	Sparrow Hawk	41
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2 (27)	Ruffed Grouse	24
Cooper's Hawk	3 (14,27)	Bobwhite	4 (13)
Red-tailed Hawk	35	Ring-n. Pheasant	137
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	Turkey	17 (24,27,28)
Broad-winged Hawk	10	Virginia Rail	6 (6,7,23)
Marsh Hawk	10	Sora	1 (7)
Osprey	2 (15,27)	Common Gallinule	18
Pigeon Hawk	3 (18,20,26)	American Coot	19

Plovers - Terns:

*Semipalm. Plover	32 (7,20)	*Black-b. Plover	1 (8)
Killdeer	359	Ruddy Turnstone	42 (6,7)

Vol. 31, No. 6 - May Bird Count (con't)

American Woodcock	22	*Semipalm. Sandpiper	17 (6,7)
Common Snipe	17	*Sanderling	2 (7)
Upland Plover	13	Great Black-b. Gull	6 (6,7,8)
Spotted Sandpiper	133	Herring Gull	157
Solitary Sandpiper	9	Ring-billed Gull	2556
Greater Yellowlegs	6 (7,12,14)	Bonaparte's Gull	21 (8,14,21)
Lesser Yellowlegs	2 (6,26)	Common Tern	1632
Pectoral Sandpiper	2 (15)	Caspian Tern	1 (20)
Least Sandpiper	19 (6,7,8)	Black Tern	177
Dunlin	157 (6,7,8)		

Doves - Swallows:

Rock Dove	258	Hairy Woodpecker	97
Mourning Dove	369	Downy Woodpecker	173
*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	6	Eastern Kingbird	426
Black-billed Cuckoo	31	Gr. Crested Flycatcher	194
Screech Owl	6 (6,7,14)	Eastern Phoebe	241
Great Horned Owl	3 (6,7,21)	*Y.-b. Flycatcher	6
Barred Owl	5 (11,16,24)	*Traill's Flycatcher	5 (7,23)
Whip-poor-will	7 (6,7)	Least Flycatcher	160
Common Nighthawk	9	Eastern Wood Pewee	56
Chimney Swift	386	H.Lark ( <u>praticola</u> )	145
R.-t. Hummingbird	56	Tree Swallow	696
Belted Kingfisher	75	Bank Swallow	1008
Yellow-sh. Flicker	564	Rough-w. Swallow	154
Pileated Woodpecker	12	Barn Swallow	1553
Red-b. Woodpecker	2 (13)	Cliff Swallow	130
Red-h. Woodpecker	45	Purple Martin	900
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	20		

Jays - Starling:

Blue Jay	647	Wood Thrush	444
Common Crow	912	Hermit Thrush	14
Black-c. Chickadee	361	Swainson's Thrush	57
Tufted Titmouse	6 (22,27,28)	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2 (1,16)
White-br. Nuthatch	71	Veery	143
Red-br. Nuthatch	1 (13)	Eastern Bluebird	58
Brown Creeper	10	Blue-g. Gnatcatcher	8
House Wren	288	Golden-cr. Kinglet	4 (18,20)
Winter Wren	5 (27,28)	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	15
*Long-b. Marsh Wren	10 (5,7,13)	Water Pipit	3 (13,28)
*Short-b. Marsh Wren	6 (10,26)	Cedar Waxwing	399
Catbird	891	Loggerhead Shrike	1 (1)
Brown Thrasher	229	Starling	12636
Robin	4790		

Vireos - Warblers:

Yellow-thr. Vireo	19	Black-&-wh. Warbler	33
Solitary Vireo	25	Golden-w. Warbler	92
Red-eyed Vireo	365	Blue-w. Warbler	86
Philadelphia Vireo	10	"Brewster's Warbler"	1 (28)
Warbling Vireo	185	Tennessee Warbler	21



Orange-cr. Warbler	4 (10)	*Blackpoll Warbler	22
Nashville Warbler	48	Palm Warbler	4 (2)
Yellow Warbler	1615	Ovenbird	221
Magnolia Warbler	99	No. Waterthrush	13
Cape May Warbler	3 (8,14)	La. Waterthrush	5 (10,24)
Black-thr. B. Warbler	20	Mourning Warbler	46
Myrtle Warbler	66	Yellowthroat	505
Black-thr. G. Warbler	69	Yellow-br. Chat	11
Cerulean Warbler	11	*Hooded Warbler	6 (10,21,24)
Blackburnian Warbler	72	Wilson's Warbler	6
Chestnut-s. Warbler	231	Canada Warbler	59
Bay-breasted Warbler	27	American Redstart	245

House Sparrow - Fringillids:

House Sparrow	2963	American Goldfinch	2504
Bobolink	590	Rufous-s. Towhee	451
Eastern Meadowlark	1200	Savannah Sparrow	244
Red-winged Blackbird	8093	Grasshopper Sparrow	66
Orchard Oriole	5	Henslow's Sparrow	27
Baltimore Oriole	916	Vesper Sparrow	146
Rusty Blackbird	13 (12,27,28)	Slate-c. Junco	43
Common Grackle	4703	Chipping Sparrow	859
Brown-h. Cowbird	1713	Field Sparrow	321
Scarlet Tanager	159	White-cr. Sparrow	45
Cardinal	271	White-thr. Sparrow	54
Rose-br. Grosbeak	221	Lincoln's Sparrow	7
Indigo Bunting	188	Swamp Sparrow	149
Purple Finch	87	Song Sparrow	2089

Miscellaneous: unidentified, 33. GRAND TOTAL, 194 species; about 68,843 individuals.

Comments and Comparisons: The total number of birds reported was the highest ever - a fact that can be accounted for in two ways: unusually good coverage in several territories because of the number of parties in the field and inclusion of the starlings in Territory 11 (Buffalo). Actually the number of birds in several species is quite low. The date, May 16, was early for the shore birds, which are conspicuously low in numbers, and though it should have been excellent for warblers, the hot weather of the previous week had probably encouraged them to migrate further north. The warbler numbers too are low except for those that are resident here during the summer, such as the Golden-winged (92 - previous high was 50 in 1955) and Blue-winged (46 - previous high was 45 in 1947).

Other species that were recorded at an all-time high include the following: Wood Duck, 69 (previous high was 24 in 1962); Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 564 (365 in 1943); Pileated Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers; Eastern Kingbird; Eastern Phoebe; Horned Lark; Blue Jay; Black-capped Chickadee; Catbird; Brown Thrasher, 229 (110 in 1960); Robin, 4780 (2825 in 1963); Wood Thrush, 444 (342 in 1961); Cedar Waxwing; Starling, 12636 (544 in 1935); Warbling Vireo; Ovenbird; Eastern Meadowlark; Baltimore Oriole; Cardinal; Rufous-sided Towhee, 451 (273 in 1961); Chipping and Song Sparrows.



In addition, twenty-two species attained their second highest numbers, including Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Turkey Vulture, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Sparrow Hawk, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee and Barn Swallow. Conspicuous absentees from the list are Gadwall, Rough-legged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Mockingbird, Parula and Prothonotary Warblers, Pine Siskin, Short-eared and Long-eared Owls.

Interesting observations may be made as one looks over the reports beginning with 1935. The Bobwhite, absent since 1954, is happily back on the list. The Turkey, which has been recorded only five times, once at a maximum of two (1963), is now increased to 17. Cardinals, recorded at ten in 1935, 29 in 1945, 81 in 1955, now number 271 on the list. Similarly the Blue Jay, recorded at 62 in 1935, now stands at 697. To nobody's surprise Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles also have made impressive gains. The number of blackbirds was 453 in 1935, 1359 in 1945, 2757 in 1955, and 8093 in 1965. Grackles were 153 in 1935, 318 in 1945, 1575 in 1955, and 4703 in this count. Happily the numbers of the Bluebird, the Hermit Thrush, and the Great Blue Heron are up appreciatively from their lows in recent years.

Sectional Divisions and Observers: The following divisions are those defined by the map "Sectional Divisions of the Territory of the Buffalo Ornithological Society" (1956). The list gives the number of each division and the name of a place in that division. Underlined names denote the individuals or group responsible for the coverage of each division. 26 of the 28 divisions were covered by a total of about 164 observers.

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Fonthill, Ont.     | - <u>Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde</u> , Dr. Robert Sommerville  |
| 2. Thorold, Ont.      | - <u>Fred Salisbury</u>   |
| 3. Wilson, N.Y.       | - <u>Edward Williams</u>  |
| 4. Middleport, N.Y.   | - not covered   |
| 5. Oak Orchard, N.Y.  | - <u>Gertrude Webster</u> , Nellie Karlak, Al Reigle, Katrina Schwenger   |
| 6. Pt. Maitland, Ont. | - <u>Edward L. Seeber</u> , Joe Grzybowski  |
| 7. Lowbanks, Ont.     | - <u>Harold D. Mitchell</u> , Dr. Francis Kenny, H.L. Lancaster, Sheldon Merritt, Dr. Howard Osgood, David Thompson, Dr. Stuart Vaughan   |
| 8. Ft. Erie, Ont.     | - <u>Dr. and Mrs. Robert F. Andrle</u> , Dr. and Mrs. Harold H. Axtell  |
| 9. Grand Island, N.Y. | - <u>Whitney Mallam</u> , Lincoln Nutting   |
| 10. Akron, N.Y.       | - <u>Elma Bowen</u> , R. Beebe, G. Seamans  |
| 11. Buffalo, N.Y.     | - <u>Dr. Arthur Freitag</u> , Stanley Maciejewski, Robert Rybczynski, Theodore Swiatek  |
| 12. Lancaster, N.Y.   | - <u>Marie and Margaret Wendling</u> , Mrs. Dororthy Danner, Mrs. Richard Madison, Mrs. Harry Schafer, Dr. Anna Schulz, Cyril Wolfling    |
| 13. Batavia, N.Y.     | - <u>Mrs. O.L. Pixley</u> , Russell Annabal, George Mahaney, Mr. and Mrs. Max Mason, David Thompson, Donald Thureau                       |
| 14. Hamburg, N.Y.     | - <u>Mr. and Mrs. David Bigelow</u> , Ernest Both, Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Hall, Gregg Hammond, Cheryl Lindstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Matlock |
| 15. Java, N.Y.        | - <u>East Aurora Bird Club</u> : Mr. and Mrs. Howard Reuther, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Loersch, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Witherell                   |
| 16. Angola, N.Y.      | - <u>Frances Rew</u> , James Braunberns, Marjorie and Mary Louise   |



- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
|                         | Emerson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stevenson  |
| 17. Cattaraugus, N.Y.   | - <u>Mrs. Helen Creighton</u> , Mrs. Cordelia Ramsdell   |
| 18. Delevan, N.Y.       | - <u>Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Bourne</u> , Mrs. R. Wm. Rochester   |
| 19. Fillmore, N.Y.      | - <u>Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Ulrich</u> , Mrs. Mercedes Lovelace,<br>Harold Freund, Eugene Trabka, Kenneth Boon, Victor<br>Carpenter  |
| 20. Dunkirk, N.Y.       | - <u>R.H. Hesselbart</u> , Dr. Allen Benton, Christopher Benton,<br>Joan Boyd  |
| 21. Cherry Creek, N.Y.  | - <u>Jamestown Audubon Society</u> : Mrs. Nina Bates, Mrs. Lois<br>Buck, Clarence Beal, Calla and Jennie Freeman, Mr.<br>and Mrs. Alvin Hoag, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Patchen,<br>Mrs. Ora Swanson, Sidney Taylor, Mrs. Laura Waterman  |
| 22. Sherman, N.Y.       | - <u>Jamestown Audubon Society</u> : Mrs. Bernice Gastol, Mr.<br>and Mrs. Douglas Pillsbury, Rev. and Mrs. James Potter  |
| 23. Frewsburg, N.Y.     | - <u>Jamestown Audubon Society</u> : Ruth Ahrens, Carolyn<br>Damarest, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Elderkin, Bill, Jack<br>and Don Gulvin, Annabelle Hiller, Robert Sundell  |
| 24. Allegany Park, N.Y. | - <u>Richard Brownstein</u> , Joanna Burger  |
| 25. Allegany, N.Y.      | - not covered  |
| 26. Cuba Lake, N.Y.     | - <u>Allegany County Bird Club</u> : Mr. and Mrs. H.B. vonArnim,<br>Fred and Larry Meyer, Eric Saylor, Mr. and Mrs.<br>Harlan Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Royce Norton  |
| 27. Bolivar, N.Y.       | - <u>Allegany County Bird Club</u> : Mr. and Mrs. Lou L. Burton,<br>Mr. and Mrs. Ed Olmstead, Mrs. John Jacoby, Vernon<br>Larson, Harold and Dan Babcock   |
| 28. Alfred, N.Y.        | - <u>Allegany County Bird Club</u> : Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Burdick,<br>E.A. Bakeman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, Dale Coats,<br>Mr. and Mrs. Paul Davie, L.A. Deverell, Eva Ford, Mr.<br>and Mrs. Eddy Foster, Mrs. Olive Graves, James Greene,<br>Marshall Howe, Ralph Jacobs, Mrs. Charles Kinzie,<br>Clarence and Anne Klingensmith, Mrs. Bror Larson, Mr.<br>and Mrs. T.M. McClure, Mrs. Katherine Palmer, Mr. and<br>Mrs. Lloyd Pendleton, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pitzrick,<br>Edward Rayburn, Mrs. Walter Schagoleff, Mr. and Mrs.<br>Gerald Smith, Mrs. Raymond Woodworth, Helen Thomas,<br>Mr. and Mrs. Willard Ulmer, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Vossler,<br>Dana Young |

Thanks are due to the largest group of observers ever to take the field and to their excellent coverage. It was far from the best kind of day for birding, for, as Mrs. Pixley wrote in the note accompanying her report, "The birds were hard to find." - Marie Wendling, 87 Garrison Road, Williamsville, New York

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

July 18 - Annual Shorebird Count. For details call the leader, Edward L. Seeber (TT 6-2320 ext. 623).

Aug. 21 - Joint trip with the Buffalo Audubon Society to visit bird sanctuaries in the Jamestown area and the martin roost in the evening. Meet 12:30 P.M. at Cleveland Drive entrance to New York State Thruway or at 2:30 P.M. at Lakeview Cemetery, Buffalo Street, Jamestown. The group will meet the Jamestown Audubon Society who will be our host. Leader, Gertrude G. Webster (TF 3-7768).

SATURDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo. Meet 8:00 A.M. at corner of Windsor and Rumsey Roads.

Aug. 28	Arthur Freitag	Sept. 25	Gertrude Webster
Sept. 4	Stanley Maciejewski	Oct. 2	Edward Ulrich
Sept. 11	Arthur Freitag	Oct. 9	Sheldon Merritt
Sept. 18	Marie and Margaret Wendling		

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Richard C. Rosche, 48 Dartmouth Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14215

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092

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# The PROTHONOTARY

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Number 7

July  
1965



Published Monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

Buffalo, New York

## THE MONTH

The average temperature for June was half a degree below normal; total precipitation was 1.5 inches, which is 1.04 inches below the mean. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

Of special interest this month are the Rough-legged Hawks north of Lyndonville. These were first discovered by George and W.A. Smith and verified by Harold Mitchell. Late in the month one that still remained was observed well by several B.O.S. members. The possibility of nesting was investigated by Mitchell and others, but no evidence was found. Also of interest was the male Prairie Warbler singing late in the month in a young coniferous plantation that resembles some typical nesting habitats in areas where this species is known to breed. These observations take on added interest in relation to May records and unverified early June reports of several singing males in this same spot. In my opinion there is no adequately attested nesting record of Prairie Warbler in the Niagara Frontier Region, but these reports of the past two months raise hopes that this void may soon be filled. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Egret	June	13	1 over Hamburg	Bourne
B.-cr. N. Heron	"	16,23	1,3 Lancaster	Mrozek

Least Bittern	June	14	1 Eden	Bourne
Green-w. Teal	"	19	1 N.French Rd., Amherst	Rosche, Gellermann
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	7,25	1 McCarty Hill	Andrle et al
Broad-w. Hawk	"	7,22	1,1 Wellsville, Belmont	Burtens
	"	24	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	A. Freitag
Rough-l. Hawk	June	9	4 near Shadigee	Mitchell, Smiths
	June	26	1 Yates	Grzybowski et al
Bald Eagle	June	28	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Ruddy Turnstone	"	2L	5 Athol Springs	Bourne
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	25F,26	1,3 Lancaster	Mrozek
O.-s. Flycatcher	"	6L	1 near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Tufted Titmouse	"	6,7	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	7,25	1 McCarty Hill	Andrle et al
Brown Creeper	"	5,6	1 Limestone	Axtells
S.-b. Marsh Wren	"	5	1 Langford	Bourne
	"	26	2 Wolcottsville area	Mitchell et al
Mockingbird	"	4	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	19	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Golden-cr. Kinglet	June	7	2 McCarty Hill	Andrle
	June	25	2 McCarty Hill	Andrle, Thill
Loggerhead Shrike	June	13	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Bl.-&-wh. Warbler	"	11	2 Springbrook	Schafer
Myrtle Warbler	June	5	1 McCarty Hill	Rosche et al
Bay-br. Warbler	June	6L	1 Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Blackpoll Warbler	"	6L	1 Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Prairie Warbler	June	25,27	1 McClure Hollow, Allegany	Andrles, Thill
No. Waterthrush	June	14	1 near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
White-thr. Sparrow	June	30	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded:	242
Additional, species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue:	0
Total for 1965:	242

STATISTICIANS' NOTES

1. The Statisticians will be glad to explain why any particular verification write-up was rejected is asked in the Humboldt Room immediately before or after a Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting (or by letter from out-of-town members), and they will welcome discussion of the verification system of the Society at any time.

NOTE: Beginning with the August records sent during the first few days of September, all records should be sent to the Compiler at 2200 North French Road, Getzville, New York 14068. Note change of address.



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September through June.

Sept. 8 - No meeting

Sept. 22 - Summer Birding Experiences of Members.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

Sept. 4 - Canadian Lake shore for shore birds. Meet 7:30 A.M. at Busti Avenue and Vermont Street entrance to Peace Bridge. Leader, Richard Byron (652-3887).

Sept. 18-19 - Weekend projected trip to Pt. Stanley, Ont. for migrating hawks. If interested please contact Edward Seeber (TT3-7366) after 6:00 P.M.

Sept. 25-26 - Annual Pymatuning Weekend. Leader, Richard Byron (652-3887).

Oct. 10 - October Bird Count. Leaders, Alice and Edward Ulrich, 193 Lasalle Avenue, Buffalo 14214 (TF 3-8896).

ANNUAL MEETING - NATURE CONSERVANCY - September 10-11-12, 1965

Dinner at Buffalo Museum of Science at 6:30 P.M. on Sept. 11. Barbecue on Sept. 12 at Deer Lick Sanctuary, with activities beginning at 10:00 A.M. For further details contact Alice Ulrich at TF 3-8896.

SATURDAY MORNING BIRD WALKS

Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo. Meet 8:00 A.M. at corner of Windsor and Rumsey Roads.

Aug. 28	Arthur Freitag	Sept. 21	Gertrude Webster
Sept. 4	Stanley Maciejewski	Oct. 2	Edward Ulrich
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Buffalo, New York

## THE MONTH

July temperature was 2.2 degrees below the long-term average. Rainfall was 1.12 inches above normal. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) The large number of summering Bonaparte's Gulls as observed at Grant Point is apparently a new phenomenon for the B.O.S. Study Area. Shorebirds in general were numerous, the numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers being especially high for these species. The outstanding news of the month concerns the first record of House Finch for the Niagara Frontier Region. This bird, an adult male, made daily visits to the feeder of Mr. Merton S. Armstrong at 75 Burbank Drive in Snyder. It was first identified by Mr. Armstrong, whose identification was verified during the subsequent weeks by most of the active field ornithologists of the Buffalo area. -- Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Pintail	July	10	3 Mud Lake, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	18	7 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	31	3 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Amer. Widgeon	"	18	1 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
Ring-n. Duck	<u>July</u>	<u>10</u>	1 Mud Lake, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Lesser Scaup	July	25	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	31	4 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al



C. Goldeneye	July	3	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	18	1 Camelot Beach, Ont.	Andrle
"	"	25	1 Mohawk Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	25	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Hooded Merganser	"	30	2 Belmont	Burtens
C. Merganser	"	18	4 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	"	18	18 Featherstone Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	9	1 McCarty Hill	Andrle
"	"	14	1 Belmont	Burtens
"	"	25	1 New Albion	Mitchell, Nevins
Semi. Plover	"	17F	6 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Letchworths
Black-b. Plover	"	30	3 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Axtells
Ruddy Turnstone	"	31F	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Letchworths
"	"	31F	2 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	31F	16 Morgan's Point to Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Gr. Yellowlegs	"	10F	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	11	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Ls. Yellowlegs	"	3	6 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein
Knot	"	30F	2 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	31	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Pectoral Sandp.	"	10F	2 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	10F	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	11	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Letchworths
Least Sandpiper	"	4F	2 Erie Beach, Ont.	Letchworths
S.-b. Dowitcher	"	10F	45 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"		Grant Point, Ont.	
"	"	11	30 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	"	11	6 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Stilt Sandpiper	"	24	2 Point Abino, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	24	2 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	30	35 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Axtells
Semipalm. Sandp.	"	11F	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
*Western Sandp.	"	24	1 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	25	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Seeber
Sanderling	"	24F	1 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	24F	1 Point Abino, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	29	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Wilson's Phalarope	"	24	2 Point Abino, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	31	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Gr. Black-b. Gull	"	18	2 Rose Hill, Ont.	Axtells
Bonaparte's Gull	"	18	483 Grant Point to Featherstone Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Caspian Tern	"	11	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Whip-poor-will	"	15	1 Wellsville	Burtens
Bank Swallow	"	17	700 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
(migrating westward)				
Red-br. Nuthatch	July	9	3 McCarty Hill	Andrle
Carolina Wren	"	26	1 Thunder Bay, Ont.	Letchworths
S.-b. Marsh Wren	"	11	3 Wainfleet Bog, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Swainson's Thrush	"	25F	1 Sargeant Dr., Snyder	Brownsteins
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	"	18	1 North Cuba Marsh	Burtens
Bl.-&-wh. Warbler	"	23	4 Alma	Burtens
"	"	25F	1 Sargeant Dr., Snyder	Brownsteins
Myrtle Warbler	<u>July</u>	<u>9</u>	1 McCarty Hill	Andrle



Yellow-br. Chat	July	29	2 Belmont	Burtons
Orchard Oriole	"	25,31	3,9 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein
*House Finch	"	10	1 Burbank Dr., Snyder	Grzybowski et al
	"	13	1 Burbank Dr., Snyder	Andrle, Armstrong
Wh.-thr. Sparrow	July	5-31	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded: 242  
 Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue: 4  
 Total for 1965: 246

### 1965 NESTING RECORDS

#### Abbreviations Used:

br - brood	NE - nest with eggs
dYO - downy young out of nest	N4E - 4 eggs in nest
(h) - nest in bird house	N4Y - 4 young in nest
N - nest (contents unknown)	YO - young out of nest

Gt. Blue Heron	1) July 9	5N with 9 young	Hood Hill, Belmont	Burtons
Mallard	1) June 2	N12E	Bowmansville	Grzybowski
	2) July 11	br 8YO	Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
	3) July 11	br 8Y)	Mud Lake, Ont.	Grzybowski
	4) July 11	br 6YO	Mud Lake, Ont.	Grzybowski
Green-w. Teal	1) June 27	br 9dYO	N. French Rd., Amherst	Rosches
	2) July 3	br 2dYO	Mud Lake, Ont.	Folemsbee
Wood Duck	1) June 13	br 14YO	Alma	Burtons
	2) July 3	br 4YO	Moss Lake	Wendlings
Ruddy Duck	1) July 3	br 9dYO	Mud Lake, Ont.	Folemsbee
	2) July 11	br 9YO	Mud Lake, Ont.	Grzybowski
Red-tailed Hawk	1) June 1	N3Y	Belmont	Burtons
	June 5	nest empty		
	2) July 11	N1Y	Andover	Burtons
Ring-n. Pheasant	1) May 5	N1E	Eden	Bourne et al
Killdeer	1) June 25	N4E	Lyndonville	Smiths
Upland Plover	1) May 28	br3YO	Lake View	Bourne
Eastern Kingbird	1) June 13	building	Bowmansville	Grzybowski
	July 9	N3Y		
	July 20	N3Y		
		(nest located 11' up in apple tree)		
Bank Swallow	1) June 16	colony of 63 nests in quarry on Genesee Street, east of Pavement Road, Lancaster		Grzybowski
		Contents of 33 nests are as follows: 1 with 3 eggs, 1 with		

4 eggs, 4 with 5 eggs, 1 with 6 eggs, 5 with 2 young, 12  
with 3 young, 2 with 4 young and 7 with 5 young

House Wren	1) June 20	N3Y	Taylor Hollow	Wendlings
Catbird	1) June 14	N4Y	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Brown. Thrasher	1) May 14	N4E	Lyndonville	Smiths
Robin	1) May 7	N4E	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	May 14	N4Y		
	2) May 31	N3Y	near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
	June 2	N3Y		
	June 10	N2Y		
Bobolink	1) June 20	N4Y	near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Red-w. Blackbird	1) June 16	N4E	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	2) June 26	N4E	Oak Orchard area	Mitchell et al
Brown-h. Cowbird	1) July 4	1Y	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	(being fed by Song Sparrow pair, one of which was partially albino)			
Indigo Bunting	1) June 4	N4E	Allegany State Park	Wendlings et al
	2) June 4	N4E	Allegany State Park	Wendlings et al
Savannah Sparrow	1) June 26	N3E	Oak Orchard area	Mitchell et al
Henslow's Sparrow	1) June 10	N3Y	Bowmansville	Grzybowski
	June 16	young left nest		
	2) June 12	N3E	near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
	June 13	N4E		
	June 27	N3Y1E (dead)		
Slate-c. Junco	1) June 7	N5Y	McCarty Hill	Andrle
	2) June 12	N5E	McCarty Hill	Andrle et al
	3) July 9	N4E	McCarty Hill	Andrle
	4) July 9	building	McCarty Hill	Andrle
Chipping Sparrow	1) July 9	N3Y (plus one Cowbird)	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Field Sparrow	1) June 14	N4Y	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Song Sparrow	1) June 27	N5E	McClure Hollow, Allegany	Andrles



Comments on Dr. Eaton's Review of C.S. Beardslee and H.D. Mitchell's BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION

We believe that certain points made by Dr. Stephen W. Eaton in his review of BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION in the Prothonotary, Vol. 31, No. 5, pp. 55-57, are invalid or misleading. Since the review will be read primarily by members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, and they are the principal users of the book, we think that for their benefit a discussion of these points is in order.

1. Dr. Eaton expresses the opinion that "the authors...made a mistake" in attempting "to force" the breeding bird fauna into a modified life zone concept and that their treatment tends to "mask the real situation", but he gives no reason or evidence or example to show why he thinks so. Dr. Eaton suggests that the authors might well have paraphrased Todd's BIRDS OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA in describing bird distribution in the Niagara Frontier Region, but he does not tell of what such a paraphrasing would consist or how it would differ from or be better than their treatment. Actually, Todd himself, used the life zone theory to describe western Pennsylvania bird distribution. He employed it on a provisional basis and brought out some of its drawbacks and inadequacies as applied to western Pennsylvania; Beardslee and Mitchell likewise recognized some limitations of the theory on the Niagara Frontier Region and likewise were careful to stress that it was the subject to exceptions there.

Dr. Eaton's brief outline of a theory concerning the route by which various species of birds may first have entered the Niagara Frontier Region and the influence of the Appalachian mountain system upon their dispersal does not show either that the authors made a mistake or that their treatment tends to mask the real situation, as he charges. Certainly this theory does not give an alternative or better explanation of present bird distribution in the Niagara Frontier Region; on the contrary it tends to support the present distributional picture generally described by Beardslee and Mitchell within the life zone concept by emphasizing the role of the highlands as a pathway for some species (Canadian Zone elements) and excluding the lowland (Carolinian Zone) forms coming from the South.

It is possible to criticize some aspects of the life zone theory as applied to the Niagara Frontier Region, but it is also possible to do the same with it in regard to Western Pennsylvania. Some may contend that distribution in these regions would be better explained by another theory. However, it remains the prerogative of the author of a book to decide, in view of the book's intent and scope, just how and to what depth and length he will go in describing bird distribution. Beardslee and Mitchell, with much less space at their disposal than Todd, thought it important to show readers briefly and generally what life zones comprise the Niagara Frontier Region and how breeding birds are distributed in relation to these zones. In this aim they by and large succeeded, using the knowledge gained about the entire region by field work of members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society and others.

2. Dr. Eaton misquotes the authors in his criticism of their statement on Barred and Great Horned Owls. The authors stated that Barred Owls "frequent (not inhabit as quoted in Dr. Eaton's review) much the same localities as Great Horned Owls, but seem to be considerably less numerous than that species in most of our territory." "To frequent" means to occur often or visit, while "to



inhabit" means to live in. Actually, experience has proven that in many areas of the Niagara Frontier Region both of these owls do frequent the same localities, at times even the same habitats, including in some cases extensive woodlands. Therefore the authors' statement is true in general for the whole region upon which it is based, and Dr. Eaton's argument that the Great Horned Owl does not occur over much of the unglaciated portion (a very small fraction of the region's total area) is irrelevant to the truth or validity of this general statement. Beardslee and Mitchell's book is not intended to focus on "microhabitats" nor to single out a minute portion of the region in all cases where a species' status may differ locally from the general picture. In other words Dr. Eaton appears to be taking exception to the authors' statement concerning the region as a whole by calling attention to a possible minor or local exception, a type of fallacious criticism he uses also in reference to other species.

3. It is important to remember that in a book with the intended purpose and scope apparent in the BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION it is necessary to consider the region as a whole in a brief abundance category (seasonal where pertinent) for each species with qualifications as required after the category or in the species account. This the authors have done when they possessed data warranting it. To describe the abundance of each species on the basis of subregions would not only have involved considerably more space but would be impractical with many species for which sufficient data are as yet unavailable. Also, it is not at all certain whether an effective delineation of subregions can be made that will be practical for use in describing avifaunal abundance in the Niagara Frontier Region.

By basing abundance of several species only on the Allegheny area Dr. Eaton takes exception to the abundance categories given by Beardslee and Mitchell to these species for the region as a whole. Obviously such criticism is not sound. In addition Dr. Eaton fails to consider the fact that the authors qualify almost all the species they mention either after the abundance category or in the species account as being more numerous locally, in some instances, in the very area to which Dr. Eaton refers. For example, the authors term Yellow-bellied Sapsucker uncommon for the region as a whole, which it is, but refer in the species account to a report of its being the commonest breeding woodpecker in Allegeny State Park. In working out the status of each species mentioned by Dr. Eaton, Beardslee and Mitchell gave consideration to his own publication on the birds of Olean and Salamanca Quadrangles. In the case of the Black-and-White Warbler it is interesting to note that in his paper Dr. Eaton classifies it as only a fairly common summer resident in the oak woods of his area, yet in the book review he terms it an abundant summer resident in taking exception to Beardslee and Mitchell's estimate of its status for the region as a whole. For other species whose abundance categories are specifically criticized by Dr. Eaton, it is interesting to compare the abundance as given in his own publication (first column) with that gives in the book BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION (second column):

Nashville Warbler: T.V. and  
probably S.R., uncommon

Fairly common T.V. Rare S.R.  
Text: Uncommon to rare and locally  
distributed as a summer resident.

Magnolia Warbler: S.R., fairly  
common

Uncommon S.R. Text: In some  
localities it is locally common.



Black-throated Blue Warbler - S.R., fairly common	Uncommon S.R. Text: Saunders called it a common bird of the mountain forests (in Allegany State Park)
Blackburnian Warbler - S.R. fairly common	Uncommon S.R., fairly common locally
Northern Waterthrush -S.R. uncommon	Uncommon S.R., locally common
Louisiana Waterthrush - S.R. uncommon	Uncommon S.R.
Mourning Warbler - S.R., fairly common	Uncommon S.R., fairly common locally
Yellow-breasted Chat - S.R., rare	Rare S.R.
Canada Warbler - S.R., fairly common	Uncommon S.R., locally common

Unless the status of these species has changed significantly since the time of Dr. Eaton's paper - and the authors received no information to this effect from the Allegheny area - it is apparent that the abundance categories for them in the BIRDS OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION are pretty much in line with Dr. Eaton's own estimates, with allowance for the fact that Beardslee and Mitchell's estimates concern their status for the region as a whole.

4. By his statement that the book's subspecific treatment follows the "conservative" now almost 10 year old 5th edition of the A.O.U. check-list, Dr. Eaton seems to imply that the authors should not have followed it, at least in the cases of some species which have been revised by writers of later taxonomic papers. However, since the authors chose to base their work on an authoritative work, as do most authors of ornithological treatises of this nature, they have no obligation to adopt subsequent changes which have not been accepted by the authority. They can if they wish refer to such changes, but also can chose not to mention them if they consider the changes not significant. A reviewer of the book may, therefore, quibble over whether this or that taxonomic change should have been followed, but such criticism, it should be remembered, is of negligible import in the light of the book's main purpose - to picture the bird life of the region. -- Robert F. Andriele and Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESReport of the Nineteenth Annual Shorebird Count

This year's shorebird count, the fourth in the late July series, was held on July 18th., one day earlier than last year and therefore the earliest ever. As was the case last year, the total number of shorebirds declined from the year before in the ten areas generally covered. As has been done in the last few years, the Grant Point area was also included as Territory eleven. Also, for the first time, the shore area west of Grant Point to the western edge of the B.O.S. study area was mostly covered and is listed below as Territory twelve. Actually, by including this additional area, thirty-eight more total birds were seen this year than last (3457 to 3419) but, of course, for comparable coverage the totals decreased slightly. Of the sixteen species reported, two are sufficiently unusual on this date to require written verification: the two White-rumped Sandpipers, one by Mitchell's group and one by Brownsteins; and the four Wilson's Phalaropes, one at Morgan's Point, two at Grant Point and one beyond near Miller's Point (Featherstone). Twenty-five persons actively participated in the count.

Outside of the actual birds observed, perhaps the most noted occurrence was the obviously greater and noticeable degree of pollution of the lake and shore line over previous years. Although this has been increasing notably since almost our first shorebird count in 1946, the amount of change seemed much greater in the past year than in any previous one. Increasing lake pollution, bringing greater amounts of soluble nitrates, phosphates, and other fertilizer materials has, in general tended to induce greater growth of algae and other aquatic life, thus making for better food and habitat for shorebirds. Beyond a certain point, however, more pollution increases certain growth so excessively as to actively reduce oxygen dissolved in the water and thus decrease the amount of life and the food reserves for shorebirds. Does our slight decrease in total numbers of shorebirds, as revealed by our shorebird count this year, indicate that the optimum habitat conditions have been passed?

Territory	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	11	12	Grand Total
Semipalm. Plover	1		3		1	2		1		2	10	1		11
Killdeer	59	35	85	28	45	50	23	62	18	5	410	41	39	490
Black-b. Plover					1						1			1
Common Snipe	1				2						3	1		4
Upland Plover												3		3
Spotted Sandp.	102	55	89	116	122	73	88	68	116	38	867	82	139	1088
Solitary Sandp.			4								4		1	5
Gr. Yellowlegs	1	6	5		1	1	4	2		1	21		2	23
Ls. Yellowlegs	83	37	105	33	40	123	94	20	10	8	553	53	53	659
(Yellowlegs sp.)								6			6			6
Pectoral Sandp.	13	6	7	1		7		10	1	8	53	5	3	61
White-r. Sandp.										1	1	1		2
Least Sandp.	85	33	110	2	7	67	43	18	9	35	409	145	33	587
Short-b. Dowitcher			3	1	13	33	14	2	9	29	104	45		149
*Stilt Sandp.						5					5			5
Semipalm. Sandp.	10		37		24	36	4	16		8	135*	85		220*
*Wilson's Phalarope							1				1	2	1	4
Unidentified "peep"		62	37	31	9						139			139
TOTALS	354	235	448	212	265	397	271	205	163	135	2722	464	271	3457



\* Although these birds were tentatively identified as Semipalmated Sandpipers, and undoubtedly many of them were, in light of the observations of our most experienced observers that, in general, most of the "peep" on the shore on this day were Least, not Semipalmated, the observers agree that it is wisest and safest to leave these individuals in the "unidentified peep" category.

My thanks to all who participated, thus making the 1965 count possible. --  
Edward L. Seeber, 472 Connecticut Street, Buffalo, New York.

#### NORTH AMERICAN NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM

As many readers are aware, the Nest Record Card Program has now been launched on a continent-wide basis. This does not mean, however, that the program is any less important within New York State. Mr. Robert Arbib, past President of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs announced at the recent annual meeting in Syracuse that the Federation has high hopes that the long-projected state bird book will soon be started. In this the Nest Record Card Program will play an important role; the more so because, thanks to the assistance of Mr. Donald McChesney, the data is being transferred to punched cards from which rapid analysis can be made.

It is therefore urged that members of this club support the program by returning completed cards on all nests found. Cards and instruction sheets can be obtained from the Secretary of the club or direct from the Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York.

#### NEW EDITOR

Beginning with Volume 31, Number 9, September, 1965, the new editor of the Prothonotary will be Mr. Whitney Mallam, 545-4th Street, Niagara Falls, New York (telephone 282-2004). With the exception of bird records, all material for use in the Prothonotary should be sent to the new editor.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September through June.

Oct. 13 - Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. "Ornithological Investigations in Southern Mexico and Guatemala" by Robert F. Andrle

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

Oct. 10 - October Bird Count. Leaders, Edward and Alice Ulrich, 193 Lasalle Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14214 (TF 3-8896).

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Richard C. Rosche, 2200 North French Rd., Getzville, N.Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092

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# The PROTHONOTARY

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## THE MONTH

August temperatures averaged 0.6 degrees below the mean, while precipitation was 4.12 inches, which is 1.07 inches above normal. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) The southward landbird migration got off to a late start and was noticeably lighter than usual for August. There were indications of one of the best Red-breasted Nuthatch incursions of the past few seasons. Rarely if ever have so many Wilson's Phalaropes been seen in the Niagara Frontier Region as during this 1965 season (unfortunately, however, we do not have the records of the majority of these observations). A Piping Plover at Athol Springs was of special interest. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Horned Grebe	Aug.	21	1 Lowbanks, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	21	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Great Blue Heron	"	23	75 Eden	Bourne
Green Heron	"	22	26 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
Green-w. Teal	"	17	4 East Aurora	Mitchell
	"	30	16 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Mitchell, Greene
Shoveler	"	18	1 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Axtell, Sundell
	"	28	2 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Lesser Scaup	"	21	3 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Turkey Vulture	"	8	26 Oak Orchard area	Klabundes
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	12,13	1 Belmont	Burtens
Cooper's Hawk	"	4	3 Wellsville	Burtens



Vol. 31, No. 9 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Broad-w. Hawk	Aug.	10	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	30	1 near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Osprey	"	12F	1 Scio	Burtens
	"	30	1 Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Virginia Rail	"	22	4 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
*Piping Plover	"	10	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
*Am. Golden Plover	"	18	1 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Axtell, Sundell
	"	31	2 Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
Upland Plover	"	9	16 Lancaster	Webster, Schwenger
	"	28,29,31	5,1,1 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
		(all migrating southward)		
Knot	Aug.	7	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
	"	7	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
	"	28	8 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein et al
White-r. Sandpiper	"	17	3 Point Gratiot	Rew, Buck
*Baird's Sandpiper	"	2	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	3,7	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	17	2 Dunkirk	Rew, Buck
	"	28	9 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein et al
Dunlin	Aug.	28	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Western Sandpiper	Aug.	3,30	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
Sanderling	"	21	66 Lowbanks, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Wilson's Phala.	"	7	2 Lowbanks, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
	"	16	1 Waverly Beach, Ont.	Axtells
	"	21	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	Aug.	28	3 Erie Beach, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Bonaparte's Gull	Aug.	26	2500 Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag
	"	28	3000 Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Little Gull	"	28F	1 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	31	2 Waverly Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
Caspian Tern	"	12	1 Woodlawn	Bourne
Black Tern	"	28	5500 Fort Erie, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	29	200 Fort Erie, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	30	3500 Fort Erie, Ont.	Mitchell, Greene
Long-eared Owl	"	31	1 Eden	Bourne
Whip-poor-will	"	9	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Common Nighthawk	"	9	40 over Tonawanda	Grzybowskis
	"	18	11 over Williamsville	Mitchell
	"	26	12 over Birdsall	Burtens
Red-h. Woodpecker	"	21	10 Fort Niagara	Klabundes
Yellow-b. Flycatch.	"	21F	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	28	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Olive-s. Flycatch.	"	21F	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	29	1 Delaware Pk., Buffalo	A. Freitag
Purple Martin	"	13	1000 Eggertsville Roost	Mitchell
	"	30	15000 Jamestown Roost	Beal
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	21F	46 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	24,27	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	30	3 Erie Beach, Ont.	Freitag, Mitchel
	"	31	1 Eggertsville	McKales
Robin	"	13	700 Eggertsville Roost	Mitchell
	"	30	500 Jamestown Roost	Beal
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	"	11-20	1-2 Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Loggerhead Shrike	"	20	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	21	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells



Vol. 31, No. 9 - Noteworthy Records (con't)

Loggerhead Shrike	Aug.	21	1 Sherbrooke Twp., Ont.	Brownstein et al
Starling	"	13	200 Eggertsville Roost	Mitchell
Philadelphia Vireo	"	21F	1 Fort Niagara	Klabundes
"	"	23	1 near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Bl.-&-wh. Warbler	"	16F-22	1-2 Lewiston	Klabundes
Prothonotary Warb.	"	22L	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
Tennessee Warbler	"	21F	2 Lewiston	Klabundes
"	"	22	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Nashville Warbler	"	20F	1 Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	24	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Parula Warbler	"	25F	1 Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Magnolia Warbler	"	16F	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
"	"	20	1 Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Cape May Warbler	"	21F	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
B.-thr. B. Warbler	"	21F	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Bl.-thr. G. Warb.	"	20F	1 Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	29	1 Eggertsville	McKales
Blackburnian Warb.	"	20F	1 Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Chest.-s. Warbler	"	16F-21	1-3 Lewiston	Klabundes
Bay-br. Warbler	"	21F	3 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	"	26	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
Blackpoll Warbler	"	23F	1 near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
"	"	25	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Wilson's Warbler	"	16F	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
"	"	20	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Canada Warbler	"	10F	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
"	"	16-22	1-3 Lewiston	Klabundes
Common Grackle	"	11	1000 over Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	13	2500 Eggertsville Roost	Mitchell
Wh.-thr. Sparrow	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>1-31</u>	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded:	246
Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue:	<u>3</u>
Total for 1965:	249

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STATISTICIANS' NOTE

1. Observers are reminded that all bird reports - even if only of one or two records - are to be submitted on standard-size typewriter paper in order to prevent loss and misplacement of records during handling and in the files.

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B.O.S. WILDLIFE REFUGE COMMITTEE REPORT - PART I

Bird Observations and Nesting Records

Although no birds were seen on the day of the Christmas Count, three weeks earlier, on December 6, when the snow was six inches deep and plants were heavily crusted with ice, seven species were observed: Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker (2), Blue Jay (2), Black-capped Chickadee (4), White-breasted Nuthatch, Starling (10), and Tree Sparrow (2). Again on January 31, when the snow was twelve to twenty inches deep and the temperature was between 10 and 15 degrees F., seven species were again recorded: Red-tailed Hawk (2), Downy Woodpecker (4), Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee (6), White-breasted Nuthatch, Robin and Goldfinch.

On April 11 only two species were noted: American Woodcock (6) and Common Snipe (6).

The Spring Bird Count on May 16 yielded twelve species: Killdeer, Purple Martin, Catbird (2), Brown Thrasher (2), Robin (3), Yellow Warbler (12), Magnolia Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird (6), Baltimore Oriole (4), Common Grackle (3), Rufous-sided Towhee and Song Sparrow (4).

During the period from May 30 to July 31 two intensive counts were made in the refuge to (1) indicate what species may have nested there, and (2) to obtain nesting records. A total of 45 species were observed. Seven additional species were not included in the list, as they were only seen flying over the area, namely, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Red-headed Woodpecker, Starling and House Sparrow. Nests and/or young were recorded for twenty species. Eight of the species on the list, seen actively feeding on the sanctuary, probably did not nest there. These included: Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Common Crow and Eastern Meadowlark. More complete coverage probably would have discovered nesting activities of most of the other seventeen species.

Table I summarizes the data based on total males observed or half of total numbers where sex differentiation was either difficult or impossible. Needless to say, the figures may be considerably in error because the birds moved about and the high density of shrubs in the "open" areas as well as the heavy foliage in the woods made it impossible to follow individuals very far. Bird songs and calls were an important aid in counting the number of pairs recorded. Both evening counts show a lower number of birds observed because there was less singing. Morning counts were taken from 6:00 to 10:00 A.M. and the evening counts from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. On August 12 no part of the wooded area was checked and observations were made from 9:00 to 10:30 A.M.

Table II summarizes the nesting activities we were able to observe. Frequently nests could not be found on subsequent visits due to the density of vegetation and lack of adequate orientation clues.

Table III summarizes the observations of young birds out of the nest. Many times the behavior of the adult birds indicated there were young in the immediate area which we were unable to find. Thus the following observations represent only a small fraction of the young in the area.



The persons who assisted in making these studies are as follows: Arthur Freitag, Gary Kuyava, Whitney Mallam, Lincoln Nutting, Frances Rew, Gertrude Webster and Marie Wendling.

To assist those who may work on this project next year the following suggestions are made:

1) Locate each observation precisely on a map of the sanctuary. (These will be made available for future studies.)

2) Be familiar with all the landmarks and paths, as well as artificial reference points to locate observations.

3) Use a conspicuous, simple method of marking the location of each nest under observation.

4) Extend the observation period to include both the earlier and later nesting species such as Woodcock and goldinch.

5) Have more participants to obtain more complete data.

In conclusion, we would like to add that we found this project intensely interesting. In spite of the misquitoses, poison ivy and heavy dew, we enjoyed each survey, looked forward to starting the next and were reluctant to leave. The sanctuary is a rewarding study area. - Hariette and Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York

TABLE I  
BIRD OBSERVATIONS

Species	Date Time	5-30 A.M.	6-6 A.M.	6-13 A.M.	6-15 P.M.	6-20 A.M.	6-25 P.M.	6-27 A.M.	7-3 A.M.	7-11 A.M.	7-31 A.M.	8-12 A.M.
Killdeer								1		1		
Amer. Woodcock				1	2						1	
Spotted Sandpiper				1	1	1		1				
Yellow-b. Cuckoo											1	
Black-b. Cuckoo			1	1				1			1	
Mourning Dove						1		1	2	2		
Screech Owl			4y				1					
Yellow-sh. Flicker	1			1		1	1	1	2	3	3 2y	3
Hairy Woodpecker								1 f4			1	
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	1			1	1	2 ly	1	3	1	
Eastern Kingbird								1				2
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	1	1	1	1			1	1	3	3	1	
Traill's Flycatcher	2	2	2	1						1	1	2
Empidonax sp.							1					
E. Wood Pewee	4	1	1	1	1			2	4	4	5	1
Tree Swallow			1						1	1		
Bank Swallow											1	
Barn Swallow					1	1			1			
Purple Martin									2	3	3	5
Blue Jay	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1
Common Crow		1				1			1			
Black-c. Chickadee			1			2	2		1	1	1	
White-br. Nuthatch			1				2			1 f5		
Catbird	7	5	5	6	13	8	11	15	14		5	2
Brown Thrasher	2	2	1	1	3	2	4	2	1		2	
Robin	7	5	6	7	8	7	7	9	5		6	2
Wood Thrush	4	2	1	4	5	9	7	7	6		4	
Cedar Waxwing			1		1			1	1		6	2
Red-eyed Vireo	6	2	4	2	5	3	4	5	5		7	1
Bl.-&-wh. Warbler	1				1							
Yellow Warbler	24	18	14	15	19	17	21	20	25	14		2
Ovenbird	1	1			2		1	1	1			
Amer. Redstart	1		1	1								
E. Meadowlark						1						
Red-w. Blackbird	10	8	8	9	12	5	9	9	7			
Baltimore Oriole	3	3	3	2	2	2	4	2	2		1	
Common Grackle	2		4	1	4		4	1	4		2	
Brown-h. Cowbird	8	5	7	4	11	1	10	10	6			
Scarlet Tanager	1				1	1	2	2	2		1	
Cardinal	1	1			2	3	1	3	1		1	
Rose-br. Grosbeak		1			1		1	1	1			
Amer. Goldfinch	2		1	2	3	2	2	3	2		3	3
Rufous-s. Towhee	5	8	4	2	4	3	3	5	5		3	2
Field Sparrow	1		1			1	2	1	3		1	2
Song Sparrow	16	7	13	9	11	13	10	14	16	16		3
Total species	45	25	23	27	20	28	24	30	30	31	28	16



TABLE II  
NESTING RECORDS

Species	Date Nest	5-30	6-6	6-13	6-15	6-20	6-25	6-27	7-3	7-11	7-31
E. Wood Pewee	a)									s (destroyed by wind)	
Catbird	a)		4e								
	b)			4y							
	c)				4e						
	d)					3y/e					
	e)					3e					
	f)					3e			3y		
Brown Thrasher	a)	s									
	b)		3e								
	c)		3e	s	s	mt					
	d)		s								
	e)					s			s	2y	
Robin	a)	mt (eggs in nest earlier in week - L.N.)									
	b)		s								
	c)		3y	3y							
	d)					3y					
Cedar Waxwing	a)										2e*
Red-eyed Vireo	a)									y(CB)	
Yellow Warbler	a)	s	4e		(x)y	(x)y					
	b)		3e	4e			4y	4y			
	c)			3y							
	d)		s	4e		3y			3y(ln)		
	e)				(x)y						
Red-w. Blackbird	a)		4e	s							
	b)			2e/2y	3y	3y					
Bal. Oriole	a)					(x)y					
Song Sparrow	a)	s									
	b)		4e	4y	4y	4y	mt				
	c)			4y							

Key: e - egg  
y - young  
s - setting or brooding  
mt - empty  
CB - Cowbird young  
(x) - unknown number  
(ln) - young left nest  
\* - 5 eggs on 8/12 but nest deserted - removed nest with 3 eggs on 9/5

TABLE III  
YOUNG OUT OF NEST

Species	Date	5-30	6-25	6-27	7-3	7-11	7-31	8-12
Screech Owl		4						
Eastern Kingbird								x
Hairy Woodpecker				2				
Black-c. Chickadee					4		3	
White-br. Nuthatch						3		
Yellow Warbler						x		
Red-w. Blackbird			x		x	x		
Baltimore Oriole				x	x			
Brown-h. Cowbird							2*	
Scarlet Tanager								2
Field Sparrow								2

\* one fed by Red-eyed Vireo; one fed by Song Sparrow)

## BLUEBIRD NESTING REPORT

Frances M. Rew

For the past two years the number of bluebirds nesting in the boxes in the area around my cabin in Chautauqua County has decreased. This is not caused by any scarcity of bluebirds, but rather by my own lack of attention and care.

Seventeen nesting boxes were put up in the early 1950's. Twelve to 15 of them produced at least one brood of bluebirds each year. This was an extraordinarily high percentage during those years when the bluebird was so rare a bird in this region that many active field birders recorded only one or two, if any, during a year's birding. Now, some fifteen years later, no active birder need lack bluebirds on his year's list.

1963 was the last year in which I had any significant numbers of bluebirds nesting in my boxes, and even then my notes indicate that almost as many Tree Swallows as bluebirds were produced. Three nesting boxes were taken over by wrens, in the process of which one bluebird and one Tree Swallow nest were destroyed.

By 1964 wrens were even more common occupants. The cause and cure were obvious. During the years the old orchards and many of the fencerows bordering on State lands and even the roadsides of the little-used dirt roads had become overgrown with brush, changing the habitat to one which favored wrens. Also some of the boxes still in good locations in pastures were in need of



repair. A program of replacement, repair and relocation was in order but unfortunately the fall of 1964 went by without its being accomplished. Early spring of 1965 also passed and it was not until the end of May that I began to relocate and replace the boxes. It was then too late in the season and the result was that of 12 boxes now in proper locations only four produced broods of bluebirds. Two housed Tree Swallows (one pair moving into a house within an hour after it was relocated), but, most important, there were no wrens occupying the boxes.

Human vandalism has been minimal through the years. Three boxes have mysteriously disappeared and two boxes have been found with bullet holes in them. In both these cases, however, bluebirds were nesting at the time of the shooting and both nests were deserted. One box (1956) contained five eggs and the other (1964) contained four young which I found dead in the nest.

One nesting in 1964 proved most interesting to me. One of my boxes, which is on a fencepost along a dirt road, seems to be ideal in all respects so far as bluebirds are concerned, and every year since 1951 it has been occupied. I hadn't checked this box early in the year except to note in passing that it was in good condition. On May 10 I noticed that the cover was missing and intended to put up a new box on my return trip that day. I failed to do this, however, and was away the following weekend. On May 23 I picked up a new box, walked over to the fencepost and looked in the box just as I was about to remove the top screw. To my surprise there were four nestling bluebirds in it which had probably hatched the previous day. The problem then was to decide what to do. I couldn't replace the box but I could put the cover from the new box on it or put a fieldstone over the top or leave it as it was and see what would happen. It had been a cold, windy, wet May and promised to continue to be so, but I finally decided to leave things as they were. On May 30 the young were still well and growing. On June 7 there were two fully fledged young in the nest with the female on a nearby fencepost. A short search of the area turned up the other two young birds in the company of the adult male. I have never had bluebirds nest in a box without a cover and think it highly improbable that a pair would begin nesting in such a box. In the present case it would appear that the nest was completed, the eggs laid and incubation probably begun before the top was blown off with the birds becoming so attached to the nest by that time that they refused to desert it. That the nestlings were in the box at least 16 and probably 17 days would indicate that they did not develop as rapidly as normal. This might possibly be accounted for by the fact that with the top gone and the weather abnormally wet and cool, the female would brood the young for long periods of time during which periods only the male would be feeding the young.

The most encouraging thing I have found with respect to the bluebird population in general is that on almost every trip I have taken through Chautauqua County this year I have seen bluebirds, many in locations where they are evidently nesting in natural sites. Nice as it is to have bluebirds in my nesting boxes, it is even more pleasant to find them once again surviving unaided in nature in our area. - 89 Rutland Street, Buffalo, New York.

OPEN LETTER FROM LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY

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The following letter, dated September 8, 1965, was received from Douglas A. Lancaster, Assistant Director of the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology with a request that it be published in the Society's journal.-  
Editor.

---

The Laboratory of Ornithology, the Department of Conservation, and the State Climatologist at Cornell are undertaking a joint project to analyze the effects of weather on migratory movements of birds. Within the past decade considerable effort has been expended to accumulate data on weather and migration, both in this country and in Europe.

The project we are undertaking can succeed only through a joint effort involving many persons. To obtain the raw data from which our analyses will be made, we hope to enlist as many interested persons as possible throughout the state of New York.

Specifically, the information we desire might best be formulated as a series of questions:

- (1) On what dates were mass movements of birds noticed?
- (2) What kinds of species were involved in the movement?
- (3) At what time of day did you see the movement?
- (4) In what direction and at approximately what altitude (not in feet; simply state high or low, etc.) were the birds moving?
- (5) Approximately how many birds were moving in each flock?
- (6) What were the weather conditions at the time? (wind direction and velocity, cloud cover, temperature and precipitation)

Much of this information is automatically recorded on field trips by most bird watchers. Equally important to us is the reporting of nocturnal migratory movements, the time of such movements, and the degree of overcast.

Even though the movements themselves are often not observed, the fact that they occurred the previous night is frequently evident from the abundance of foraging birds in a woodland that was quiet the previous day.

In the winter and spring, the picture of waterfowl movements is confused by the local patterns of movements of wintering birds from lake to lake and along rivers. We are not interested in these movements, since they are not migratory movements.

We hope that some members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society will be interested in reporting to us the migratory movements of waterfowl and song birds as outlined in this letter.



NOTES AND NEWS

All B.O.S. members and friends of the late Bernard Nathan will be interested in reading the anecdote about Bernie in The Bird Watcher's America, edited by Olin S. Pettingill, Jr., McGraw-Hill, 1965. The anecdote, one page 352, is recounted by John Allen Livingston of Toronto in his chapter on the spring migration at Point Pelee, Ontario.

Prothonotary editor retires. - Since 1934, the year in which the Prothonotary was first printed, five editors have taken on the responsibilities of publishing our journal. These duties are manifold. The procuring of the monthly bird records, articles, notices of meetings and the cosity activities is an unending job.

For five years Richard Rosche has performed these duties, and also many times has gone beyond by caring for the addressing of the mailing list and the typing of the stencils. His labor was long and often trying. He has asked to be relieved of his job as editor. The Council has named Whitney Mallam as his successor.

The Buffalo Ornithological Society hereby acknowledges its gratitude to Richard Rosche, and by means of this notice offers him their thanks for his many years of excellent effort and work as editor of the Prothonotary. -  
Edward C. Ulrich

THE PROTHONOTARY STAFF

September 1965

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Membership Committee Chairman: Mary Louise Emerson  
B.O.S. Treasurer: Harriette Klabunde  
"The Month": Harold H. Axtell

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

- October 27 - Report of October Bird Count by Alice and Edward Ulrich.  
"Birding in the Southwest" by Harriette and Walter Klabunde
- November 10- "Effects of Meteorological Factors in Avian Migration" by Carl Mrozek
- November 24- No meeting

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- November 14- Canadian Shore of Lake Erie. Joint trip with the Buffalo Audubon Society. Meet 8:00 A.M. at Busti Avenue and Vermont Street entrance to Peace Bridge. B.O.S. Leader, Gertrude Webster (TF3-7768).
- December 5- Niagara River and south shore of Lake Ontario. Leaders Richard Brownstein and Daniel Salisbury. Please contact R. Brownstein for further details (839-3585).

\*\*\*\*\*

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Richard C. Rosche, 2200 North French Rd., Getzville, N.Y. 14

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# The PROTHONOTARY

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Number 10



October  
1965

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Buffalo, New York

## THE MONTH

September was mostly warm, with the average temperature 2.1 degrees above the mean. Rainfall, 0.76 inches below normal, reached a total of 2.37 inches, of which 1.29 inches fell on the 1st.

The kinds of observations published in our Noteworthy Records do not necessarily always show which days produced the best birding or the greatest migratory activity. Also, the unpleasant weather which is commonly associated with the best migration days in the fall usually discourages most observers from going afield at the very times when there is the most to be seen and learned. Likewise, very few birders watch for signs of exceptional migratory movements from Monday through Friday.

The long, heavy rain on the 1st was followed by a sharp drop to considerably lower temperatures lasting through the 2nd and 3rd, which were at the same time the sunniest days of the month. Both dates produced excellent influxes of birds, but since they occurred on Thursday and Friday, few birders knew what they were missing.

The biggest apparent migration of the month and one of the most exciting autumn birding days in recent years occurred on Sunday the 26th. The weather on this day was unsettled and rather wild, with the lowest temperature (39 degrees) since last spring, strong winds that shifted from southwest to north, and some extremely dark clouds that produced a few brief scattered showers and even a partially-developed waterspout over Lake Erie just before noon, the second within a few weeks. Few birders were out, except briefly at Beaver Island State Park.

Some very large numbers of Common Terns were reported during the third week.

Among the more notable rarities were Willet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, and Black-headed Gull. Most outstanding, however, were the Curlew Sandpiper and the Wheatear.



The Curlew Sandpiper is the first record for the B.O.S. study area. During a period of three weeks preceding the date that it was collected, we had been hearing indirect oral reports of several occasions on which different persons, whose names usually were lost along the rumor route by which the reports came, were said to have seen what they believed was or might be a bird of this species at or near Morgan's Point or Grant Point, on the Ontario shore of Lake Erie. On September 11, when several B.O.S. members were at Grant Point, one of the group, Dan Salisbury, spotted, identified, and pointed out to the others a Curlew Sandpiper. Adrian Dorst collected the bird and presented it to the Buffalo Museum of Science, where it is BSNS 5072. This predominantly Old-World species has recently been found nesting in the vicinity of Point Barrow, Alaska, and is reported regularly from the Atlantic Coast, most often Long Island and New Jersey. Although there have been many eastern North American sight records, few specimens have been collected. The only records far away from the Coast are five from southern Ontario. Of these, three sight records and one specimen collected about 1886 are from near the west end of Lake Ontario. The fifth is the present record from the north shore of Lake Erie.

The Wheatear, at Beaver Island State Park on the 25th, is the second record for the B.O.S. study area. It was first found and identified by Paul Benham, a new B.O.S. member, who quickly sent out word by telephone, to which Richard Brownstein, Harold Mitchell, and Alice and Edward Ulrich responded in time to see and personally identify the bird. The next morning it could not be found. When seen it was just off the edge of a golf course, as was the other Wheatear just sixteen years and a day earlier (Sept. 24, 1949), beside the Cherry Hill Golf Course in Ontario. Although there are several records for southern Ontario, central and southeastern New York, and elsewhere in eastern continental North America, reports of Wheatear are even more rare than those of Curlew Sandpiper on this continent. (Meteorological figures as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f)- indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) 3rd Revised Edition, has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	Sept. 7F	1 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 28	1 Beaver Island S. Park	Grzybowski
Great Blue Heron	" 29	45 Oak Orchard Area	Burger et al
Common Egret	" 5	2 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
	" 5	1 Tiff Street, Buffalo	Kikta
	" 19-25	2 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta et al
B.-cr.Night Heron	" 2	1 Hamburg	Bourne



Vol. 31, No. 10 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

B.-cr.Night Heron	Sept.	22	4	South Park, Buffalo	Andrle, Kikta
"	"	23	6	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
"	"	26	2	South Park, Buffalo	Wendlings
"	"	26	13	Beaver Island S. Park	Brownstein et al
"	"	29	13	Oak Orchard Area	Burger et al
Canada Goose	"	5	213	Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
"	"	21F	20	Wellsville	Burtens
"	"	22	12	Belmont	Olmstead
Gadwall	"	25F-30	1	Scio	Olmstead
"	"	27,29	1	Scio	Burtens
Blue-winged Teal	"	19	250	Lowbanks to Morgan's Point, Ont.	Mitchell,Wendlings
Redhead	Sept.	22	1	South Park, Buffalo	Andrle, Kikta
Ring-necked Duck	Sept.	27F	2	Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
Greater Scaup	Sept.	8F	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Mitchell et al
"	"	18	6	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Common Goldeneye	"	4	2	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	Sept.	3,17	2,2	Belmont, Wellsville	Burtens
"	"	6,11	1,4	over Rose Hill Rd.,Ont.	Axtells
"	"	11	6	Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein
"	"	16	10	Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Pillsbury, Swanson
"	"	23,24	2	Alma	Burtens
"	"	25	1	West Clarksville	Rosches
"	"	25,26	2,2	over Rose Hill Rd.,Ont.	Axtells
"	"	26	1	Friendship	Burtens
"	"	27	1	Athol Springs	Bourne
"	"	30	1	Kiantone	Pillsbury
Cooper's Hawk	"	2,7	2,1	Belmont	Burtens
"	"	9	1	Jamestown Roost	Beal
"	"	16	1	Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Pillsbury, Swanson
"	"	17	2	Alma	Burtens
"	"	23,24	2	Wellsville	Burtens
"	"	30	1	Kiantone	Pillsbury
Broad-w.Hawk	"	16	3	Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Pillsbury, Swanson
"	"	25	3	over Rose Hill Rd.,Ont.	Axtells
Osprey	"	3	1	Alma	Burtens
"	"	5,13,27	1,2,1	Scio	Burtens
"	"	7,25	1	Belmont	Burtens
"	"	9-30	1	Belmont	Olmstead
"	"	11,18	1	Lowbanks, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	13	1	Kiantone	Pillsbury
"	"	16	1	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	22	1	Lake View	Bourne
"	"	26	2	Beaver Island S. Park	Freitag et al
Peregrine Falcon	"	5F	1	Hamburg	Bourne
Turkey	"	30	9	Wellsville	Burtens
Virginia Rail	"	1	1	Belmont	Burtens
Sora	"	5	3	Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
Am. Golden Plover	"	7	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
"	"	11	2	Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	14	1	Waverly Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
"	"	19	1	Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosches et al
Whimbrel	"	14F	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Salisbury et al
"	"	18	1	Lowbanks, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	18	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al

Spotted Sandpiper	"	29	1	Scio	Olmstead
Solitary Sandpiper	"	29	1	Oak Orchard	Burger et al
"	"	29	1	Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
*Willet	Sept.	27	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Kikta, Andrle et al
	Sept.	29	1	East Eden	Bourne
Knot	Sept.	18	33	Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein et al
"	"	26	11	Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Andrle
"	"	26	2	Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
White-r. Sandpiper	"	4	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Baird's Sandpiper	"	4	7	Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
"	"	18	9	Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein et al
"	"	19	6	Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosches et al
"	"	26	1	Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Andrle
*Curlew Sandpiper	"	11	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Salisbury, Dorst
(collected; specimen now in Buffalo Museum of Science; first record for B.O.S. study area)					et al
Dunlin	Sept.	18	3	Lowbanks, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Short-b. Dowitcher	"	6	17	Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein et al
Stilt Sandpiper	"	18	15	Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein et al
Western Sandpiper	"	6	4	Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	14	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Salisbury et al
"	"	16	1	Waverly Beach, Ont.	A. Freitag
"	"	18	5	Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Salisbury et al
*Buff-br. Sandpiper	"	4	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Salisbury, Grzybowski et al
*Hudsonian Godwit	"	6	1	near Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Salisbury, Dorst
(collected; specimen now in Buffalo Museum of Science; first specimen for present B.O.S. study area)					
	Sept.	29	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Burger, Seeber et al
	"	30	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Kikta
Wilson's Phala.	"	4	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Rybczynski, Kikta
*Black-h. Gull	"	11	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury et al
"	"	23	1	Bird Island, Buffalo	Andrle, Byron et al
*Franklin's Gull	"	11	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury et al
"	"	12	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski, Mrozek
"	"	23	2	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne et al
"	"	24	2	Buffalo	Mitchell et al
"	"	25	1	Bird Island, Buffalo	Wendlings et al
"	"	28	1	Bird Island, Buffalo	Mitchell
Little Gull	"	3	1	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
(hawking for caddis flies with 700 other from Lake Erie)					larids one mile
	Sept.	4	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	"	11	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury et al
"	"	14	3	Waverly Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
"	"	21	1	Hamburg Town Park	Danner
"	"	23, 26	3, 2	Bird Island, Buffalo	Andrle et al
"	"	24	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
"	"	25	1	Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	"	25	2	Bird Island, Buffalo	Wendlings et al
"	"	28	1	Bird Island, Buffalo	Mitchell
*Forster's Tern	"	4, 6	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein
"	"	18	4	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein



Forster's Tern	Sept.	23	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne et al
"	"	25	1 Bird Island, Buffalo	Wendlings et al
"	"	25	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Salisbury et al
Common Tern	"	16	7000 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
			(this high number is reported to have been a careful and conservative estimate)	
"	"	19	2500 Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosches et al
"	"	19	1500 Windmill Point, Ont.	Rosches et al
"	"	19	2000 Waverly Beach, Ont.	Rosches et al
Caspian Tern	"	8	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Mitchell et al
"	"	14	2 Port Colborne, Ont.	Danner
"	"	19	1 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Mitchell, Wendlings
"	"	24L	1 Port Weller, Ont.	Salisbury, et al
Black Tern	"	4	2000 Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	"	30	2 Niagara Falls	Salisbury et al
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	"	22	1 Belmont	Olmstead
Black-b. Cuckoo	"	26	1 Belmont	Burtens
Barn Owl	"	14-30	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
Common Nighthawk	"	3	670 over Kenmore	Brownstein
"	"	3	5 over Hamburg	Schafer
"	"	4	6 over Eggertsville	McKales
"	"	4	26 over Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	5	50 over Belmont	Olmstead
"	"	9	4 Jamestown Roost	Beal
"	"	18	18 over Cheektowaga	Brownstein
Chimney Swift	"	26	180 Buffalo	Grzybowski et al
"	"	26	95 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	"	28	10 Kiantone	Pillsbury, Swanson
R.-thr. Hummingbird	"	29L	1 Belmont	Burtens
Y.-b. Sapsucker	"	4F	1 Eggertsville	McKales
"	"	11	1 near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
"	"	11	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Eastern Kingbird	"	19	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	22	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
Gr. Crested Flyc.	"	12L	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Traill's Flyc.	"	1-11L	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
E. Wood Pewee	"	28	1 Belmont	Burtens
Olive-s. Flyc.	"	2	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Bank Swallow	"	29L	1 East Eden	Bourne
Rough-w. Swallow	"	29	48 East Eden	Bourne
"	"	30	2 Kiantone	Pillsbury
Barn Swallow	"	25	6 Dunnville, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Cliff Swallow	"	5	50 Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein et al
Purple Martin	"	9	3000 Jamestown Roost	Beal
"	"	21	31 Jamestown Roost	Beal
"	"	26	49 Grand Island	Brownstein et al
"	"	26	1 Buffalo	Grzybowski
Blue Jay	"	26	58 Beaver Island S. Park	Grzybowski
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	4	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
"	"	4,5	1 Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	3,24,26	1 Eggertsville	McKales
"	"	6	1 Friendship	Olmstead
"	"	10,15,20	1 Springbrook	Danner
"	"	16	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
"	"	20-27	1-2 Lancaster	Grzybowski

Red-br.Nuthatch	Sept.	27	1	Wellsville	Burtens
	"	29	1	Springbrook	Danner
Winter Wren	"	20F	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	25	1	Eden	Bourne
Robin	"	9	500	Jamestown Roost	Beal
	"	21,30	1000	Jamestown Roost	Beal
Wood Thrush	"	27	2	Colden TV Tower	Rosches
Swainson's Thrush	"	2F	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	4	1	Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Mitchell, Wendlings
Gray-ch. Thrush	"	6F	1	Eggertsville	McKales
	"	11	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	13-30	1-6	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
*Wheatear	"	25	1	Beaver Island S. Park	Mitchell, Benham, Brownstein, Ulrichs
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	"	17L	1	Lake View	Bourne
Golden-cr. Kinglet	"	20F	2	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	"	13F	1	Kiantone	Pillsbury
	"	16	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Water Pipit	"	11F	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein
	"	12	1	Clarence	Rosche
Yellow-thr. Vireo	"	23L	1	Springbrook	Danner
Solitary Vireo	"	19F	1	Castaday Point, Ont.	Rosches et al
	"	21	1	East Aurora	Danner
Red-eyed Vireo	"	24	1	East Aurora	Scafer
Philadelphia Vireo	"	17-23	1-2	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	19	3	Springbrook	Danner
	"	25	1	Buffalo	Wendlings et al
Warbling Vireo	"	24L	1	East Aurora	Danner, Schafer
Orange-cr. Vireo	"	16F,19	1	Hamburg	Bourne
Parula Warbler	"	6	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein
	"	17	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Yellow Warbler	Sept.	22L	1	South Park, Buffalo	Andrle, Kikta
Cape May Warbler	Sept.	8	1	Springbrook	Danner
Myrtle Warbler	"	3F	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	7	1	Belmont	Olmstead
Palm Warbler	Sept.	2F	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	Sept.	6	6	Morgan's Point to Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
No. Waterthrush	"	12,13	2,1	Eggertsville	McKales
*Conn. Warbler	"	19	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	27	1	Colden TV Tower	Rosches
Mourning Warbler	"	12	1	Eggertsville	McKales
Bobolink	"	21L	2	Elma	Danner, Schafer
Baltimore Oriole	"	18	1	Colden TV Tower	Rosches
Rusty Blackbird	"	26F	1	Beaver Island S. Park	Seeber
	"	27	4	Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
Common Grackle	"	9	500	Jamestown Roost	Beal
Indigo Bunting	"	1-30	1-2	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Pine Siskin	"	26F	4	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	26F	1	Beaver Island S. Park	Grzybowski
	"	28	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Salisbury
Red Crossbill	Sept.	24F	1	Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Grasshopper Spa.	Sept.	6L	1	Eden	Bourne
Slate-c. Junco	"	24F	3	Port Weller, Ont.	Salisbury et al
	"	28	1	Hamburg	Schafer



Slate-c. Junco	Sept.	28	1	Springbrook	Danner
White-cr. Spa.	"	26F	1	Beaver Island S. Park	Andrle
	"	27	3	Snyder	Brownstein
White-thr. Spa.	"	1-10	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	11F-30	3-40	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	11F	3	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein
	"	11F	5	Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Lincoln's Sparrow	"	17F-19	2	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	25-30	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	28,30	1	Kiantone	Pillsbury, Swanson

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded:	249
Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue:	9
Total for 1965:	258

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### STATISTICIANS' NOTES

1. In view of the developing scarcity of Peregrine Falcons and Pigeon Hawks and the known frequency with which other species are misidentified as these two, even by field observers of high repute, it is likely that Statisticians will require detailed verifying write-ups for most future reports of these two falcons. Observers are therefore requested to include such verification with their reports of these species, so that the records may be published promptly.

2. Please refer to the last page for name and address of the new B.O.S. Compiler.

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### GENERAL NOTES

Oregon Junco in the Niagara Frontier Region - During the past fifteen years reports of Oregon Juncos have come from scattered localities in the region, but all have been based on sight observations. On January 22, 1965, with the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. David M. Bigelow, I collected a junco which had been coming to the feeder in the yard of their home at 90 Meadowview Lane near the intersection of Hopkins and Maple Roads in Williamsville, a short distance northeast of Buffalo, N.Y.

The Bigelows thought this bird was an Oregon Junco because it possessed colors and a pattern characteristic of this species. The specimen, a male, was sent to the United States National Museum, where Dr. Lester Short, Jr., identified it as an Oregon Junco. This first specimen for the region was critically determined by Dr. Short to be of the race montanus, the subspecies of Junco oreganus that is apparently most likely to occur here. Robert F. Andrle, Buffalo Museum of Science.

(See also Statisticians' note on Oregon Juncos, Vol. 31, No. 1 - January, 1965, page 5. Editor)

THE HOUSE FINCH ADVANCES TO WESTERN NEW YORK

Richard Brownstein

The westernmost penetration of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) to date in Eastern North America was recorded with the occurrence of a singing male in Snyder, N.Y., from June 19, 1965, to August 4, 1965. The bird was a regular visitor at the feeder of Merton Armstrong of Burbank Avenue, in the village of Snyder, a suburb of Buffalo. This represents the first local record for this species and is the farthest west a wild bird has been recorded in New York State since a male was banded in the Catskill village of Monticello in 1952. (A singing male with yellowish-orange replacing the normal reddish areas, seen in Rochester, N.Y., in 1955, was thought to be an escaped cage bird by most observers.)

On June 19 Mr. Armstrong observed a bird feeding on sunflower seeds in a back yard feeder at his home. Confident that the bird was unlike any of those pictured in his Eastern field guides, he investigated further, and when he had studied a plate of the House Finch, he promptly identified it as the same. On July 8 the identification was officially corroborated by Mr. Harold Mitchell and the author, who obtained both still and moving pictures of the bird in color. In the succeeding month most interested observers were able to view the bird at remarkably predictable hours at the feeder. The last date of its occurrence was August 4, when it was driven off by two young Cardinals.

The history of the House Finch in the Northeast is an interesting one. Its native range, as given in the A.O.U. Check-list, 5th edition, page 560, is from southern British Columbia to the highlands of southern Mexico, east to western Nebraska and central Texas. Its initial introduction in the East in 1940 occurred when Eastern dealers were restrained from their practice of importing the bird from California in large numbers and marketing them illegally. This action was undoubtedly responsible for the release of many House Finches locally. The first established Eastern breeding areas were located in New York State (southern Nassau and southwestern Suffolk counties), Connecticut and New Jersey.

In 1953 Elliott and Arbib (Auk, volume 70, pages 31-37) summarized the House Finch's first decade or so in the East. At that time they estimated a total of about 300 Eastern birds. One has only to look at the 1962 Christmas Count total of 1295 individuals to see the dramatic increase in the bird's Eastern population. In the years since the first documented breeding of the House Finch (1943), the bird has been recorded in the Catskill Mountain region (Monticello, 1952), northwestern Connecticut (1954), northern and west-central Massachusetts (1955), Philadelphia (1956), Maryland (1958), eastern Massachusetts (1960), and in 1962 it spread to the District of Columbia and the Delaware coast. In the winter of 1960 it occupied new areas in southern New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, then crossed the Potomac River into northern Virginia and even into North Carolina.

Reports from the last three years emphasize the rapidly increasing population near the core areas. In 1962 the Jones Beach (Brooklyn) Christmas Count recorded only one House Finch, but by October 1964 the



total had risen to over 40 birds. Similarly, while the eastern extremities of Long Island had resisted the expansion of the House Finch prior to 1964, the Christmas Count of that year listed 25 birds at Montauk and 17 at Orient. The most recent noteworthy records are of single birds at Hazleton, Pennsylvania, in January, heretofore the westernmost record, and at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, in April, the easternmost record.

The House Finch appears to be moving along the Atlantic Coast in a northeast and southwest direction, occupying a narrow band usually less than 150 miles from the Eastern seaboard. It has moved in this pattern about 400 miles southwest of its place of origin, but only half as far northeast. This pattern could be a result of limiting winter weather. Recent observations indicate the possible beginning of a northeast and southwest winter dispersal movement, with a withdrawal from the extremities in early spring, presumably back to core breeding areas.

Since all experienced observers who saw the Snyder bird expressed the opinion that it was the brightest-plumaged male they had encountered in the East or West, a few remarks concerning the plumage of the House Finch seem to be in order. In general this species is closely akin in both sexes to the plumages of its congener, the Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*). Both are rather small (5½") finches with reddish-tinged males and brown, streaked females. The male House Finch is gray-brown, with distinct reddish-to-crimson areas on the throat and breast, forehead and superciliaries, and rump. The red on the forehead decreases in intensity on the crown and nape, ending abruptly at the dull, gray-brown back. The male Purple Finch has a purplish or "raspberry" coloration over its foreparts which is much more uniform or unbroken than that of the House Finch and of a substantially different hue. The coloration of the head and rump does not contrast with the back nearly as much as it does in the House Finch. While the male House Finch shows strongly streaked belly and flanks, the male Purple Finch lacks any definitive streakings on the underparts. The culmen in the House Finch is decidedly convex, whereas that of the Purple Finch is invariably straight. The female Purple Finch is much more definitively marked than its congener and is more like a pint-sized female Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*), with prominent, light superciliaries and a dark malar spot. The female House Finch, on the other hand, is dull gray-brown and streaked throughout below, without the salient markings of the female Purple Finch.

The songs of both species are also quite similar. The long warble of the Purple Finch is more disjointed and is slightly sweeter in the House Finch. The song phrases of the Snyder bird in particular were short and abrupt, perhaps due to the time of year. The call notes of the House Finch are finch-like, often with a rising inflection, quite unlike the dry metallic "tick" of the Purple Finch.

The House Finch is the 374th species or collected subspecies in the Niagara Frontier Region.



## ETHOLOGY: A NEW SCIENCE DEFINED

Joanna Burger

Ethology is a relatively new science dealing with the study of function, biological significance, causation, and evolution of species-typical behavior (Dilger, 1962). My purpose in this article is to discuss the meaning of ethology; objectives and methods of ethology will be discussed in a later article.

Modern ethology owes its origin to Konrad Lorenz and the publication of his now classic "Der Kumpan in der Umwelt des Vogels" ("The Companion in the Bird's World") in 1935. Lorenz expressed many of the concepts of ethology recognized today. His work was a reaction against the early school of animal behaviorists who studied only learned behavior patterns and who were anthropomorphic in their approach to behavior. The old-time behaviorist (and many psychologists) often restricted his study to a few convenient "lab" animals. These animals, raised in a laboratory situation, certainly did not exhibit normal behavior. Often the animals had developed their own neuroses, and these behaviors were not taken into account. Indeed, certain schools became very proud of "their" line of mice. The present-day ethologist cannot be distinguished by the types or varieties of animals he uses, but by his approach to the study of innate and learned behavior and the relationship between the two. The author contemplates whether there is any sound biological base for a difference between innate and learned behavior, or whether it is merely a matter of degree.

That which behavior accomplishes is known as its FUNCTION, and it is often easy to determine. For example, locomotion serves to transport the animal from one place to another. Function is not always so obvious. Consider the function of male precopulatory displays. (A display is a behavior evolved with the express function of signalling to another individual.) Do displays function as a long-term stimulus to the female physiologically, as a short-term stimulus to release soliciting behavior from the female, or as stimulation for the male himself? While at Cornell, Barbara Brockway worked with the parrot genus Agapornis and noted two types of sounds emitted during gamopraxis (all behavior leading to and including copulation): a loud warble and a soft "tuck". Further study indicated that the loud warble stimulates all of the males to begin the loud warble, and when this reaches a certain intensity, the males emit a soft "tuck." It is the soft "tuck" which stimulates the female to solicit. In fact, the loud warble has an inhibitory effect on the female, even though it is absolutely necessary for the male.

The effect of behavior in increasing or decreasing the animal's chance of survival is known as its BIOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE. The ability of flight has the function of moving the animal from one area to another; its biological significance is that it brings him closer to food, water, a mate and shelter, or removes him from predators or other deleterious features of his environment. In this way it increases his chance of survival. A Pectoral Sandpiper with a broken wing has a decreased chance for survival simply because he cannot escape predators as easily. One must beware of being teleological; behavior is not performed with a conscious purpose. A male Killdeer does not perform a precopulatory display to cause the female to permit copulation any more than our heart beats to pump blood.



The Killdeer performs a behavioral pattern instinctively when the external and internal conditions are just right.

CAUSATION refers to the physiological states underlying behavior, including the concepts of drive and motivation. It may also refer to the conditions of experience necessary to acquiring a potential behavior. The stimulations experienced by the organism from the time it was a zygote influence its behavior. Determining the nature of these stimuli, when and how they occurred, is fundamental to the determination of causation. A thorough description of the animal's entire behavior is necessary before the cause can be determined. The presence of a man walking on Erie Beach may well be the immediate cause of a flock of shorebirds flying, but it is not the precursory cause. The broken-wing act (a display) of the Spotted Sandpiper, so familiar to most of us, is caused by the motivational conflict between the desire to escape and to attack. Yet the immediate cause is the presence of some predator.

In order to determine the embryological and developmental cause of behavior, deprivation experiments are necessary. In these experiments, the bird is raised in the absence of a certain factor, with a control, to ascertain the effect of that factor on the total behavior of the bird. Consider the nesting behavior of the Spotted Sandpiper. To determine whether juvenile experiences, parental example, observation of other pairs of Spotted Sandpipers, or instinct causes a Spotted Sandpiper to locate his nest in a certain habitat, a series of deprivation experiments would be required, to test each variable.

Behavior, like any structure, has not always been in its present form, and the ethologist is interested in the EVOLUTION of behavior patterns. The evolution of a behavior is intimately involved with the evolution of structures associated with the behavior. In Herring Gulls the red dot on the bill of the adult causes the young to open their beaks, which in turn causes the adult to stuff food into the gaping mouth. The evolution of this behavior must be intimately associated with the evolution of the red dot on the beak (Tinbergen, 1961). The display of a male Red-winged Blackbird's wing-patch required the evolution of that red wing-patch. Frequently a display evolved from a maintenance activity (preening, scratching, biting, bathing, etc.). The Red-wing's display may have evolved from scratching or preening the flanks.

If placed in a gamopractic situation in which the internal escape-reproductive drives are equal, the bird may perform an activity which seems completely out of context (Displacement Activity), for example, scratching. If this happens repeatedly, scratching may become part of the gamopractic display (as it has in many cases).

Often the object of an initiated behavior pattern is removed either physically or psychologically from the situation. In this case the bird performing the behavior pattern may complete the act, directing the act to another. These Redirection Activities may also become part of a behavioral pattern. The author observed that a male Zebra Finch performs copulatory movements on his perch when the female is psychologically removed from the situation. This happens enough times in the gamopractic activities of Zebra Finches to be part of the total display.

Displays may also evolve from intention movements. An intention movement is one in which an action is initiated, but not completed, because the stimulus is removed; the action is then completed in a different manner. Have you ever reached out to shake someone's hand and, getting no response, began instead to scratch your head or fix your hair? This is a good example of an intention movement.

The precursory behavior (i.e. scratching, preening, etc.) undergoes certain changes in becoming a display. The behavior may undergo changes in some or all of the following areas:

1. Threshold (degree of stimulus) or response.
2. Amplitude of response.
3. Speed and frequency of behavior response.
4. Development of rhythmic repetition.
5. Exaggeration of part of the behavior over other parts.

Ethology is the study of function, causation, biological significance, and evolution of species-typical behavior. Function is what the behavior accomplishes; causation refers to the forces underlying the behavior; biological significance is the behavior's effect in increasing or decreasing the animal's chances of survival; and evolution refers to the gradual changes in behavior patterns through time that have led to the present behavior pattern.

#### Literature Cited:

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- Lorenz, K., 1935, "Der Kumpan in der Umwelt des Vogels," J. f. Ornithology, 83:137-214, 280-413.
- Tinbergen, N., 1961, Herring Gull's World, Basic Books, New York.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

Audubon Camp Scholarship - At the September 22 meeting of the B.O.S. it was voted to join the Audubon Society as usual in sponsoring a scholarship to an Audubon camp. Members are asked to suggest and encourage possible applicants.

In a letter to Mr. David Bigelow, Curator of Education at the Buffalo Museum of Science, the applicant should state his qualifications and his reasons for wanting the scholarship. Mr. Bigelow would like applications as soon as possible so that the scholarship winner may have a chance to choose whatever time he wishes to attend these very popular summer sessions.

- Marie Wendling



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M., from September through June.

November 10 - "Effects of Meteorological Factors in Avian Migration"  
by Carl Mrozek.

November 24 - No meeting.

December 8 - Regular meeting. Program to be announced.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

November 14 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie. Joint trip with the Buffalo Audubon Society. Meet 8:00 A.M. at Busti Avenue and Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge. B.O.S. Leader Gertrude Webster (TF3-7768).

December 5 - Niagara River and south shore of Lake Ontario. Meet 8:00 A.M. at Busti Avenue and Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge. Leaders Daniel Salisbury and Richard Brownstein (839-3585).

December 26 - Thirty-seventh Annual Christmas Bird Count. Harold and Rachel Axtell leaders (405 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, TT5-4251). Please contact the leaders or come to the December 8 meeting for assignment of territories.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086. (NT4-5128)

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# The PROTHONOTARY

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## THE MONTH

The average temperature for October was 3 degrees below the mean; precipitation was 2.07 inches above normal, with a total of 5.07 inches, over half of which fell on the 7th to 9th.

Perhaps this concentrated rainfall stimulated bird movement. At least I can find no other explanation why the 10th, which was the day of the B.O.S. October Bird Count, was one of the better birding days of the month, and why the 12th was one of the very best I have seen in October during recent years. On these two dates, especially the 12th, both diurnal and typically nocturnal migrants were moving throughout much of the day.

On the night of the 16th there was a major exodus. At Rose Hill Rd., Ontario, counts and careful estimates indicated that between 80 and 95 percent of the White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, Robins, Flickers, and Meadowlarks present on the 16th were gone on the 17th. Likewise, large percentages of other birds that normally depart in late October apparently left on that same night. This emigration was presumably triggered by the fact that the 16th was the first (or at most the second) night during October with clear skies and a north wind. Apparently a very few species, at least Myrtle Warblers and Evening Grosbeaks, arrived in numbers that overbalanced their departures on that date.

The lowest daily temperature and the most northwesterly wind after October 5th occurred on the 24th. This date brought the best migration flights of loons, hawks, and Bonaparte's Gulls reported during the month. At Rose Hill Road, in relation to which the migration habits of birds as influenced by the geographical arrangement of the Great Lakes and the Niagara River produce some interesting consequences, the loons were migrating southward, the hawks eastward, and the Bonaparte's Gulls slightly east of northward!

At the same locality, numbers of Chimney Swifts were observed on several unusually late dates, always migrating westward.



The Pine Siskin flight continued unabated from September 26 throughout October. Two widely separated feeding stations each harbored a Dickcissel at the same time. The courting flight of a Woodcock was observed at Rose Hill Road in the early dawn of the 2nd and the 16th - a performance rarely noted in the fall. The most unusual species recorded was undoubtedly the Black-headed Gull. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York

### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	Oct.	24	21 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	24	3 Athol Springs	Andrle
B.-cr.Night Heron	"	2	3 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
American Bittern	"	24	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Gadwall	"	11	2 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	12	17 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	29	2 Belmont	Olmstead
Redhead	"	14	1 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
Ring-necked Duck	"	14-20	2 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
Greater Scaup	"	31	400 Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Bufflehead	"	24F	9 Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
Oldsquaw	"	31F	12 Fort Erie, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	31F	4 Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
White-w. Scoter	"	7F	5 Fort Erie, Ont.	Burger, Schaffner
*Surf Scoter	"	7F	2 Fort Erie, Ont.	Burger, Schaffner
Common Scoter	"	4F	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	7	5 Fort Erie, Ont.	Burger, Schaffner
Ruddy Duck	"	19	10 Hamburg Town Park	Danner
Turkey Vulture	"	25	2 Scio	Burton
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	3,12,16	1,5,1 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	4	1 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
Cooper's Hawk	"	12	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	12	1 Scio	Olmstead
	"	14	2 Wales	Schafer
Rough-l. Hawk	Oct.	11	1 Scio	Burton
	Oct.	30	1 Stevensville, Ont.	Axtells
Osprey	"	20L	1 Belmont	Burtens
* <u>Chukar</u>	"	15	24 Shadigee Rd., Nia. Co.	Andrle, Mitchell, et al
Gray Partridge	"	12	2 Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski
Turkey	"	1,4	14,4 Wellsville	Burtens
	"	1	4 Belmont	Burtens
Am. Golden Plover	"	24	1 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Common Snipe	"	23	3 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells



*Purple Sandpiper	Oct. 30F	1 Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Axtells
White-r. Sandpiper	" 6	2 Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
"	" 7	2 Erie Beach, Ont.	Burger, Schaffner
Baird's Sandpiper	" 7L	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
*Parasitic Jaeger	" 15	1 Olcott	Andrle et al
"	" 21	2 Athol Springs	Bourne
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	" 31	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski,
			Salisbury, Brownstein
Franklin's Gull	31	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Bonaparte's Gull	" 31	9000 Niagara Falls	Andrle et al
Little Gull	" 7,13	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
"	" 31	5 Nia. Falls-Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Forster's Tern	" 7	2 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Burger, Schaffner
"	" 12	1 Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
"	" 19	4 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Burger, Schaffner
Common Tern	" 31	200 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Black Tern	" 12	6 Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	" 11L	1 Wellsville	Burtions
Black-b. Cuckoo	" 13L	1 Belmont	Burtions
Saw-whet Owl	" 23F	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Com. Nighthawk	" 12	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	Oct. 17L	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Chimney Swift	Oct. 2,3,9	41,71,20 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	" 7	125 Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
	Oct. 12,15,16L	207,1,4 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
R.-t. Hummingbird	Oct. 1	1 Belmont	Burtions
Red-bel. Woodpkr.	" 8,13	1 Batavia	Buckland
"	" 31	1 Belmont	Palmer
Eastern Kingbird	Oct. 12,13L	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells et al
Eastern Phoebe	Oct. 14	1 Batavia	Buckland
"	" 15	1 Belmont	Burtions
E. Wood Pewee	" 1-10L	1 Springbrook	Danner
Horned Lark			
( <u>E.a.alpestris</u> )	Oct. 28F	1 Elma	Kikta
Purple Martin	" 5,6	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Tufted Titmouse	" 16-31	7 Athol Springs (banded)	Csont
Red-br. Nuthatch	" 1-29	1-2 Springbrook	Danner
"	" 3,13,17	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	" 4,8	2 Bowmansville	Grzybowski
"	" 4,18	1 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
"	" 7,14	1,2 Morgan's Pt., Ont.	A. Freitag
"	" 12	1 Belmont	Burtions
"	" 14	3 Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	A. Freitag
House Wren	" 5	1 Belmont	Olmstead
Sh.-b. Marsh Wren	" 12L	1 Wainfleet Bog, Ont.	Grzybowski
Catbird	" 24	1 Belmont	Burtions
Gray-ch. Thrush	" 8	2 Belmont	Burtions
Eastern Bluebird	(many reports for the month)		
Northern Shrike	Oct. 16F	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Solitary Vireo	Oct. 4	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
Red-eyed Vireo	" 15	1 Wanakah	Rochester, Creighton
"	" 18L	1 Athol Springs (banded)	Csont
Tennessee Warbler	" 12	2 Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski
"	" 12,13L	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells

Orange-cr. Warb.	Oct. 2,3	3,1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	4	1	Bowmansville	Grzybowski
"	7	2	Belmont	Olmstead
"	12	1	Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	14L	1	Belmont	Burtens
Nashville Warb.	" 12L	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski
Parula Warbler	" 2	1	Athol Springs.	Csont
Bl.-th.Blue Warb.	" 8	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Chestnut-s. Warb.	" 8	3	Belmont	Burton
Blackpoll Warbler	" 14L	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Burger, Schaffner
Palm Warbler	" 14L	1	Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	A. Freitag
Ovenbird	" 8	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Mourning Warbler	Oct. 8	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Wilson's Warbler	Oct. 12L	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	12L	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski
American Redstart	" 16	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	22L	2	Elma	Danner
Balt. Oriole	Oct. 13L	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Scarlet Tanager	Oct. 12L	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	12L	1	Beaver Island St. Pk.	Grzybowski
Indigo Bunting	" 3L	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Dickcissel	" 10-17	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells et al
"	16-19	1	Hamburg (f)	Andrle et al
Evening Grosbeak	" 17	9	Bannan Swamp, Wyo. Co.	Dodge
"	17	3	Bowmansville	Grzybowski
"	17,24,28	1,32,1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	26	5	West Seneca	Kikta
Common Redpoll	" 28F	2	Como Park, Lancaster	Kikta
"	30	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Pine Siskin	" 1-31	2-60	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	4	7	over Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
"	18-31	1-8	Belmont	Burton
"	25	15	Belmont	Olmstead
"	28	1	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
Rufous-s. Towhee	" 30	1	Friendship	Burton
Savannah Sparrow	" 15L	2	Belmont	Burtens
Slate-col. Junco	" 4	125	Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Tree Sparrow	" 8F	1	Elma	Schafer
White-cr. Sparrow	" 12-16	100	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
(maximum count for the month)				
White-th.Sparrow	Oct.10-16	225	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
(maximum count for the month)				
Fox Sparrow	Oct.5-22	1-2	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
"	8	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	23-31	6-12	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
(maximum count for the month)				
Lincoln's Spar.	Oct.2,3,12	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
"	8	1	Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
"	Oct. 23L	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded: 258  
 Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue: 5  
 Total for 1965 263



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Report of the October Bird Count

Date: October 10, 1965

Weather Conditions: The weather conditions reported were unusually similar in all areas: generally overcast or cloudy; occasional light rain (mist or showers), mostly in the forenoon, making visibility very poor; temperature ranged from 40-50 degrees F.; wind was generally light (5-15 m.p.h) mostly west or northwest.

Sectional Divisions and Observers: The following divisions are those defined by the map "Sectional Divisions of the Territory of the Buffalo Ornithological Society" (1956). The list gives the number of each division and the name of a place located in that division. Underlined names denote the individuals or group responsible for the coverage of each division.

1. Fonthill, Ont. - Mr. Dan Salisbury - no report
2. Thorold, Ont. - Mr. Dan Salisbury - no report
3. Wilson, N.Y. - Gertrude Webster, Ima Bill, Nellie Karlak, Walter and Harriette Klabunde, John and Mabel Lehrer, Flossie Lortz, Katrina Schwenger.
4. Middleport, N.Y. - Walter and Harriette Klabunde.
5. Oak Orchard, N.Y. - Harold D. Mitchell, Joseph Grzybowski, Gregory Hammond, Paul Hess, W.A. Smith.
6. Portmaitland, Ont. - E.A. Williams.
7. Lowbanks, Ont. - Johanna Burger, Dan Salisbury, Edward Seeber.
8. Fort Erie, Ont. - Mary Louise Emerson, Harold and Rachel Axtell, James Braunberns, George Letchworth, Dr. R.L. Sommerville.
9. Grand Island, N.Y. - Paul and Mary Benham, Edwin A. Mabbette, John K. McCormick.
10. Akron, N.Y. - Edward and Alice Ulrich, Arthur Schaffner.
11. Buffalo, N.Y. - Dr. Arthur Freitag, Joseph Kikta, Stanley J. Maciejewski, Robert Rybczynski.
12. Lancaster, N.Y. - Marie and Margaret Wendling, Mrs. Fred Danner, Mrs. Harry Schafer, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Forsberg, Cy Wolfling, Nancie Greenman.
13. Batavia, N.Y. - Mrs. O. L. Pixley, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Annabal, George Mahaney, Richard Beebe, Mr. and Mrs. Max Mason, Gail Seamans, Don Thurau, Dave Thompson.
14. Hamburg, N.Y. - T.L. Bourne, Dr. R. F. Andrle, Mrs. J.E. Bacon, Mrs. Elek Csont, Mrs. R. Wm. Rochester, Mr. and Mrs. David M. Bigelow.

15. Java, N.Y. - Thelma Pikett
16. Angola, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stevenson, Thomas Bourne,  
Robert Andrle.
17. Cattaraugus, N.Y. - Frances Rew, Frances Rathbun, Stephen Eaton.
18. Delevan, N.Y. - Unassigned.
19. Fillmore, N.Y. - Harold Freund, Ronald Andrews.
20. Silver Creek - R. H. Hesselbart
21. Cherry Creek, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Ruth Aherns, Clarence  
Beal, Coryl Belknap, Calla and Jennie Freeman,  
Annabelle Hiller, William Mealy, Bob Sundell.
22. Sherman, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Mrs. Arthur Babath,  
Nina Bates, Lois Buck, Mr. and Mrs. George Nelms,  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Patchin, James Potter,  
Ora Swanson.
23. Frewsburg, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Ruth Aherns, Mr. and  
Mrs. Allen Findley, Bill and Jack Gulvin, Annabelle  
Hiller, Steve Moore, Mrs. Russell Pillsbury,  
Douglas Pillsbury, Bob Sundell.
24. Allegany Park, N.Y. - Richard and Nancy Freitag.
25. Allegany, N.Y. - Dr. Stephen W. Eaton.
26. Cuba Lake, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. H.B. von Arnim, (West Clarksburg),  
Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Hale (Caneadea), Mssrs. Fred  
and Larry Meyer (Olean), Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rosche  
(Getzville), Eric Saylor (Hinsdale).
27. Bolivar, N.Y. - Allegany County Bird Club: Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton,  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cook, Mrs. James Trick, Mr. and  
Mrs. Edward Olmstead, Lenard Presutti, Mr. and Mrs.  
Richard Rulison, Mrs. John Schleigh, Mrs. Jean  
Sortore, Mrs. Florence Waters (Belmont); Mr. and  
Mrs. Clifford Carrier, Mrs. Lee W. Gross, Mr. and  
Mrs. Robert H. Keople (Cuba); Mr. and Mrs. Philip  
Burdick (Friendship); Harold Babcock, Gary Enderlee  
(Wellsville).
28. Alfred - Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Burdick, Mrs. Bror A. Larson,  
Mr. and Mrs. T.M. McClure (Wellsville); Mrs. Kate  
Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton (Belmont);  
Mrs. Robert Common, James Smith (Andover);  
Mrs. Eva Ford, Mrs. Helen Thomas, Mr. and Mrs.  
Robert Howard, Mrs. Walter Schogoleff, Mr. and Mrs.  
Donald Gerace, Mrs. Helen Champlin, Fred Kohlbrener,  
Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Foster, Clarence Klingensmith,  
Marshall Howe (Alfred); Edward Rayburn, Dale Coats,



28. Alfred (cont.) - Ted Vossler, Ralph Jacobs, Mrs. Douglas Reynolds, Mrs. Olive Graves, Mrs. Paul Fuller, Mrs. Neil Bernard, Mrs. Raymond Woodworth, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Pendleton, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pitzrick (Scio).

Species Recorded: Figures in parentheses indicate division numbers where the species was observed when it was reported in three or fewer divisions.

Loons - Mergansers:

Common Loon	3 (6,7)	American Widgeon	1595
Horned Grebe	53	Shoveler	3 (5,9)
Pied-billed Grebe	76	Wood Duck	236
Great Blue Heron	84	Redhead	7 (5,9,26)
Green Heron	9	Ring-necked Duck	4 (5)
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	3 (8)	Canvasback	1 (5)
American Bittern	4 (5,13,28)	Greater Scaup	111
Canada Goose	1328	Lesser Scaup	13 (3,5,26)
Mallard	876	White-w. Scoter	16 (5,7,8)
Black Duck	479	Surf Scoter	25
Gadwall	2 (5,14)	Common Scoter	5 (3,8)
Pintail	63 (5,9)	Ruddy Duck	11 (5,7)
Green-winged Teal	52	Hooded Merganser	2 (23)
Blue-winged Teal	121	Red-br. Merganser	37 (6,8)

Vulture - Rails

Turkey Vulture	13	Sparrow Hawk	58
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7 (8,15,28)	Ruffed Grouse	49
Cooper's Hawk	4(14,16,26)	Bobwhite	25 (4)
Red-tailed Hawk	77	Ring-n. Pheasant	185
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	Turkey	7 (14,27)
Broad-winged Hawk	1 (22)	Sora	3 (3,6)
Marsh Hawk	22	Common Gallinule	18
Pigeon Hawk	1 (5)	American Coot	2034

Plovers - Terns

Semipalmated Plover	19 (3,4,14)	Stilt Sandpiper	2 (7)
Killdeer	505	Semipalm. Sandpiper	51 (6,7,8)
Am. Golden Plover	3 (23)	Hudsonian Godwit	1 (14)
Black-bellied Plover	14 (6,7,8)	Sanderling	32 (6,7,14)
Ruddy Turnstone	1 (6)	Gr. Bl.-b. Gull	40
Am. Woodcock	2 (13)	Herring Gull	3323
Common Snipe	16	Ring-billed Gull	5423
Greater Yellowlegs	31	Franklin's Gull	1 (14)
Lesser Yellowlegs	7	Bonaparte's Gull	2604
Pectoral Sandpiper	30	Forster's Tern	1 (7)
White-r. Sandpiper	23	Common Tern	1852
Least Sandpiper	12 (6,7)	Black Tern	2 (8)
Dunlin	255 (6,7,8)		

Doves - Swallows

Rock Dove	842	Pileated Woodpecker	13
Mourning Dove	271	Red-bell. Woodpecker	2 (13)
Black-billed Cuckoo	1 (27)	Red-head. Woodpecker	2 (6,28)
Screech Owl	2 (13,14)	Yel.-bell. Sapsucker	15

Great Horned Owl	4 (8,12,28)	Hairy Woodpecker	65
Barred Owl	2 (28)	Downy Woodpecker	237
Short-eared Owl	1 (13)	Eastern Phoebe	66
Common Nighthawk	1 (11)	Eastern Wood Pewee	39
Chimney Swift	128 (8)	Horned Lark	
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	1 (20)	( <u>E.a.praticola</u> )	255
Belted Kingfisher	75	Rough-w. Swallow	3 (26)
Yellow-shafted Flicker	257	Purple Martin	4 (7)

Jays - Starling

Blue Jay	1072	Brown Thrasher	19
Common Crow	2312	Robin	5049
Black-cap. Chickadee	1057	Wood Thrush	5 (13,17,28)
Tufted Titmouse	4 (22)	Hermit Thrush	54
White-br. Nuthatch	451	Swainson's Thrush	18
Red-br. Nuthatch	69	Gray-cheek. Thrush	3 (13,17)
Brown Creeper	54	Veery	1 (7)
House Wren	16	Eastern Bluebird	117
Winter Wren	12	Golden-cr. Kinglet	681
Carolina Wren	1 (8)	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	226
Long-b. Marsh Wren	10 (5,6,7)	Water Pipit	53
Short-b. Marsh Wren	1 (14)	Cedar Waxwing	507
Mockingbird	2 (13,28)	Starling	34,015
Catbird	49		

Vireos - Warblers

Solitary Vireo	2 (28)	Bl.-th. Green Warbler	15
Red-eyed Vireo	3 (7)	Blackburnian Warbler	1 (6)
Philadelphia Vireo	2 (17)	Chestnut-s. Warbler	10 (8,14,27)
Bl.-and-wh. Warbler	5 (8,14)	Bay-breasted Warbler	10
Tennessee Warbler	7 (7,8,28)	Blackpoll Warbler	3 (7,8,13)
Orange-cr. Warbler	8	Palm Warbler	
Nashville Warbler	17	( <u>D.p. palmarum</u> )	12
Parula Warbler	1 (11)	Ovenbird	2 (7,10)
Magnolia Warbler	21	Yellowthroat	8
Cape May Warbler	1 (28)	Canada Warbler	1 (28)
Bl.-th. Blue Warbler	3 (8,11,21)	American Redstart	4
Myrtle Warbler	934		

House Sparrow - Fringillids

House Sparrow	5088	Savannah Sparrow	42
Eastern Meadowlark	856	Vesper Sparrow	179
Red-w. Blackbird	25,061	Sl.-colored Junco	1695
Rusty Blackbird	416	Tree Sparrow	171
Common Grackle	8169	Chipping Sparrow	445
Br.-headed Cowbird	4183	Field Sparrow	324
Cardinal	161	White-cr. Sparrow	507
Rose-br. Grosbeak	10(12,23,27)	White-th. Sparrow	2194
*Dickcissel	1 (8)	Fox Sparrow	8
Purple Finch	116	Lincoln's Sparrow	6(14,23,26)
Pine Siskin	19	Swamp Sparrow	139
American oldfinch	3143	Song Sparrow	1980
Rufous-s. Towhee	98		

(Continued on page 127).



ETHOLOGY: A NEW SCIENCE DEFINED  
PART II

General Ethological Principles

This article will consider the principles of the theoretical and actual worlds of the organisms and the mechanisms involved in the stimulus-response behavior of organisms.

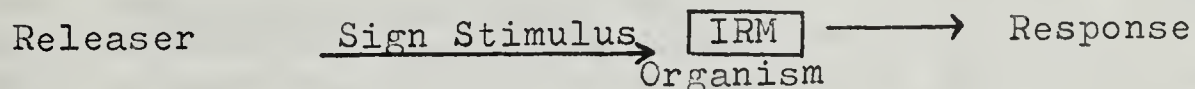
Konrad Lorenz was one of the first to realize the importance of considering the animal's world, not as man sees it, but as the animal sees it. This is often a difficult task, as man does not possess the same physical and physiological equipment as, for example, our avian friends.

The world that the animal is theoretically capable of responding to is known as the Merkwelt. Many of us have observed a flock of dunlin foraging along the shore, oblivious to a flock of killdeer not far away. The nearby killdeer, as well as the rocks, sedges, cattails, and pounding waves, are all part of the Merkwelt, the world these birds are capable of responding to. But they are not affected by these objects. Suddenly the dunlin careen into the air and are gone. A skyward glance reveals a circling hawk. The world (including the hawk) that the dunlin actually respond to is known as the Umwelt. Any visible object is by definition part of the Merkwelt at all times, but it is not always part of the Umwelt. A man walking along Erie Beach may or may not be part of the dunlin's Umwelt, depending upon internal and external factors.

During the breeding season, male Red-wing Blackbirds vigorously defend their territory against all other intruding males of their species. Yet later in the year the same males pay no attention to each other. Clearly, during the breeding season any intruding male is part of the defender's Umwelt; but two months later the same intruder is not a part of that Umwelt.

Further distinctions can be made. Does the bird respond to the male intruder, or does he respond to certain characteristics of the intruder? Usually the signal is a summation of all the characteristics of the intruder (Theory of Heterogenous Summation). During the breeding season, for example, a male Wood Thrush responds to another male's presentation of the brown breast spots by attacking him. Yet he will not attack a ball-shaped object with only brown spots; other signals are necessary.

Let us consider the nature of the stimulus-response behavior. The brown spots of the Wood Thrush (the releaser) act as a sign stimulus to a defending male Wood Thrush, causing a response. The object that causes the reaction is called the releaser. The signal used is the sign stimulus. The behavior caused by the stimulus is called the response.



The sign stimulus is often hard to determine. Consider our Wood Thrush suddenly confronted with an intruding male Wood Thrush. The intruder is, of course, the releaser. Is the sign stimulus the brown color, the shape, or the texture of the brown spotted breast?



One must always consider the phenomena of supernatural stimulation. Many organisms respond more quickly to a stimulus greater than the one normally occurring. For example: Herring gulls will readily accept and incubate a nest with more eggs in it than their normal-sized clutch (Tinbergen, 1961). In fact, given the choice, the gulls seem to prefer the nest with more eggs in it to their own nest placed beside the experimental one. They will also choose a nest containing an egg far larger than their normal egg. Supernatural stimuli do not normally occur in nature, but usually exist only in the realm of man's experimentation. The effect of supernatural stimulation is not limited to birds. I have observed that a group of dragonfly nymphs, which normally inhabit stream vegetation, will choose wire mesh to climb on if presented with both conditions. Wire mesh does not naturally occur in streams, and the nymphs inhabit vegetation, which provides protection and a good vantage point for the capture of its prey.

#### Thresholds

The typical threshold for a given behavior pattern varies with the frequency of its occurrence. The longer the time elapsed since a given behavior pattern was performed, the smaller the stimulus necessary to elicit the response. If a Curlew Sandpiper hasn't eaten for a very long time, the slightest movement (sign stimulus) will cause a feeding response, but if his hunger is satiated, a high threshold exists for feeding, and feeding may not be elicited under any stimulus. The threshold, or level of stimulus necessary for the response, has changed.

Typical thresholds often play an integral part in gamopractic (reproductive) displays of closely related species. In sympatric (closely related) species, where the behavior pattern must insure the correct pair bond formation, the threshold of the behavior pattern may be the only factor that varies. Because a given stimulus does not elicit a reaction does not mean that the organism won't ultimately respond to that stimulus or that it does not possess that behavior pattern. It merely means the threshold is higher and that the necessary level of stimulation may not be reached either practically or theoretically.

#### Innate Releasing Mechanism

Often a response will occur without any visible sign stimulus. Such responses Lorenz called Leerlaufreaktion; we would call them vacuum activities. We must be alert to the possibility of our having missed the sign stimulus because it was too small for our detection. We should consider the likelihood of an internal stimulus. Could a bird see a mirage of food which could elicit foraging behavior?

The mechanism that releases a response that was previously blocked is known as the Innate Releasing Mechanism (IRM). (Some ethologists object to the use of innate, preferring the phrase releasing mechanism.) Defining the IRM is very difficult. Some equate it with the central nervous system, claiming that the term IRM is not necessary. For our purposes, IRM is merely the term used to describe the mechanism that releases the reaction.

#### Fixed Action Patterns

Some responses are called Fixed Action Patterns (FAP). The FAP is



the whole behavioral pattern, consisting of a series of stereotyped, co-ordinated activities, that is typical of each species. It must be, by definition, an activity that occurs in a species-typical way, even if the individual is raised in isolation and has never seen the action performed. In the study of bird songs, this approach (isolation of the young) has proven fruitful. The approach has been used on many behaviors to determine if they are FAP's. Consider, for example, Bill Dilger's work on the love-bird genus Agapornis. The members of this genus tear paper strips for nest material when they reach a certain age, and even when they're raised in isolation, the size and shape of these strips is species-typical and thus a Fixed Action Pattern.

Some ethologists divide responses into Bewegungsnorms and Reaktionsnorms. The Bewegungsnorm refers to the co-ordination of muscles that is rigidly fixed. External stimulation is necessary to release and/or maintain it. The intensity of the stimulus may influence the intensity of the response, but it hasn't any effect on the form of the behavior. The Reaktionsnorm is the response or part of a response that changes with continual stimulation from the environment. The Reaktionsnorm is less rigid and cannot occur without external stimulation during the entire behavior.

In Graylag Geese (the European Wild Gray Goose) there is a behavior to return an egg to the nest if it has rolled out. The bird puts its chin over the egg and proceeds to roll it back; if the egg rolls away to the side, the goose will continue to draw its head back to the nest before making another attempt. This is the Bewegungsnorm part of the response. However, while the egg is under the chin, she will make balancing movements with her chin to try and keep the egg under the chin. This the Reaktionsnorm, and it requires the continued stimulation of the egg under the chin. Although both the Bewegungsnorm and Reaktionsnorm occurred in this behavior pattern, they do not necessarily have to occur in any given behavior pattern.

Any organism is part of its environment (Merkwelt) but it only responds to parts of the environment (its Umwelt). An object causing a response is known as the releaser. The sign stimulus emitted from the releaser causes a response, made possible by the IRM. Often the sign stimulus is hard to determine, as it may include one feature or a combination of features of the releaser (Heterogenous Summation). Thresholds for a given behavior pattern may vary according to internal and external factors. Responses may take the form of Fixed Action Patterns, patterns of behavior typical of a species.

NEW MEMBERS

The Buffalo Ornithological Society welcomes  
two new corresponding members:

Mr. R. H. Hesselbart, Silver Creek, N.Y.

Miss Flossie Lortz, Wilson, N.Y.

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1965-1966

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EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Delivered at the Annual Meeting on October 13, 1965

The year just passed was not merely an Anniversary Year - the Thirty-fifth - but also a milestone along the road the Buffalo Ornithological Society has traveled, for it was in this year that the work begun in 1930 by its first statisticians, Clark S. Beardslee and Harold D. Mitchell, was brought to successful conclusion in the publication of The Birds of the Niagara Frontier. That Clark Beardslee did not live to see the book is the one sad aspect of this notable event.

Because the book uses the records we all helped to compile, the Society may take just pride in its share in the making of the book, without taking away any of the honor due its authors.

(Here followed a review of the B.O.S. year, including the death of Bernard Nathan, the Anniversary Banquet on November 9, 1964, and notable programs.)

In the field the scheduled trips brought fair attendance and some spectacular records, such as the Rock Wren at Port Weller and the White-fronted Goose at Oak Orchard. Individual trips by members added the Curlew Sandpiper on the Canadian Shore and the Weatear on Grand Island. However, since our field work is not concerned only with finding the unusual and spectacular, probably the most important discovery was the abundance of wintering birds in a weedy meadow on the Ontario Plain.

Since January 1961 The Prothonotary has been most capably edited by Richard Rosche, who gave us publications to be proud of. To him go our sincere thanks.

We welcome Whitney Mallam as our new editor. To show our welcome I suggest that members get busy and write those articles they have long planned to write. Editors, we sometimes forget, need material to edit. We ought, I think, to revive our former custom of publishing a report of each field trip. To do so serves the double purpose of informing the membership, as well as encouraging them to come out on the trips. More observations and activities ought to be written up. The yearly report of the nesting at the Axtell's sanctuary is a model of what such a report should be, but its perfection ought not to discourage others from writing of their findings.

(Here followed a note on revision of the Date Guide, verification form and Roster.)

The greatest disappointment of the year is the lack of response to our Map Write-up project. So far only four of the projected 28 write-ups have been published. True, many have been promised and, we hope, started. If anyone has an idea, plan, or proposal that would get busy people to take the time to write up a section familiar to them, I would be grateful for his suggestion. Does the outline seem to be asking too much? (See Prothonotary, Vol. 30, No. 11, pg. 100.) It was, after all, meant to help, not hinder, the writer, who is not expected to know every woodlot in his section. All he needs to do is to list 10 - 25 places where birds may be found in season. Most of us know 5 - 10 of our territories fairly well, but should we be asked to take a census in any of the others, we would waste much time looking in the wrong places. Armed with a sectional write-up, however, any one of us can successfully cope with any territory - either on bird census days or on trips of our own.

Another problem - again a perennial one - is the need for establishing liason with the outlying clubs and distant members in our admittedly large territory. No doubt the best way to establish good working relationships is through personal contact.....Each year we should plan one or two trips to the outlying areas - Batavia, Jamestown, Wellsville - at the convenience of the local groups.

We must maintain and expand our studies in migration and population. Good work is currently being done in hawk and shorebird migration. When enough data in these fields has been collected, someone will be able to make an authoritative study for publication. We need to expand our population studies, in the winter as well as in summer. Cooperation with several national studies in migration and nesting should be seriously undertaken.



One year ago the outgoing president startled us with a frank appraisal of our society. The criticisms and suggestions she offered are still applicable and worthy of consideration: the need for more really active members; for greater involvement in our activities (e.g., sending in reports to the compiler regularly, attending meetings, being willing to lead field trips or at least to join field trips); for meaningful studies of birdlife in our territory and publication of those studies either by individuals or by the Society; in general, for a rethinking of our whole attitude toward the purposes of our society. An occasional such review is good for any serious group.

As I read over this report, I am amazed at the number of things I have said we ought to do. Yet, as the poet has so well said, "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp," and so it is well to have in mind many things to do. On that basis we may allow ourselves to be pleased a little with what we have accomplished, though regretting what else might have been done. All in all, it was a good year, and my many fears in taking over as your president have not materialized. My thanks go to the other officers and the committee chairmen, as well as to all of you who have dealt kindly with my shortcomings and have at all times supported me and - more importantly- your Society.

Marie Wendling

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October Bird Count (Cont. from page 120)

Miscellaneous: unidentified scaup, 31; unidentified ducks, 2002; unidentified owls, 1. GRAND TOTAL, 166 species; 126,741 individuals.

We of the Buffalo Ornithological Society sincerely thank all the members and friends, especially those of the neighboring clubs (the Allegany County Bird Club, the East Aurora Bird Club, and the Jamestown Audubon Society) for the excellent work they did in gathering records to make this fine comprehensive count of the fall birds in our Western New York Area on October 10, 1965.

We also compliment those clubs who had such a large number of observers in the field.

Alice E. Ulrich, 193 LaSalle Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214

PROGRAMS - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M., from September through June.

December 8 - Birds of Africa, National Audubon Society 44-minute color sound film. Assignment of territories for Christmas Bird Count.

December 22 - No meeting

January 12 - Regular meeting. Program to be announced.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

December 5 - Niagara River and south shore of Lake Ontario. Meet 8:00 A.M. at Busti Avenue and Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge. Leaders Daniel Salisbury and Richard Brownstein (839-3585).

December 26 - Thirty-seventh Annual Christmas Bird Count. Harold and Rachel Axtell leaders (405 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, TT5-4251). Please contact the leaders or come to the December 8 meeting for assignment of territories.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086. (NT4-5128)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, New York 14301.



# The PROTHONOTARY

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December  
1965



ALBERT R. MANN  
EDITOR

JAN 19 1966

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## THE MONTH

The average temperature for November was 40 degrees, which is one degree above the long-term mean. Precipitation was 4.69 inches, 1.09 inches above normal. There were strikingly fewer late-staying migrants than during the last few years. The explanation for this may have something to do with the excessive rainfall throughout the entire autumn, or with the cold October of this year as contrasted with warm autumns in the other recent years. Of special interest are records of Red-bellied Woodpeckers from several Allegany County localities. In only two previous years have as many as five Purple Sandpipers been seen at once: in November, 1941, from six to eight were observed on several dates at Crystal Beach, and on November 28, 1948, five were found at Point Abino.

The invasion of northern grosbeaks and finches is rather impressive. Having noted that although Pine Siskins were observed daily throughout October at Rose Hill Road, Ontario, but only one individual was recorded there during November, it occurred to me to examine the other November records. Except for the lone individual just mentioned, all Pine Siskin reports after the first week were from the Southern Tier Counties of New York. Whether this is significant for indicating when the Siskin migration ended and where they are going to spend the winter remains to be proven by the reports of the next few months.

The most outstanding rarities were the Eared Grebe, Golden Eagle, and Black-headed Gull. Considering the observations published in this issue, it again seems appropriate to comment that in the Niagara Frontier Region, November is likely to be one of the most exciting months for birding. Indeed, the Statisticians have rarely been swamped with so many verifying write-ups - required for especially unusual records - as in this month.

Observers please note that detailed written verification for Pine Grosbeak reports will not be required for the first four months of 1966, unless specifically requested by the Statisticians. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) - Harold Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.



NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year  
 F - indicates first record for the migration  
 L - indicates last record for the migration  
 (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	Nov. 2	1 Chautauqua Lake	Swanson
	" 4,9	2,1 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
	" 21	3 Chautauqua Lake	Rew, Swanson
	" 21	1 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Rybczynski et al
	" 30	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Red-necked Grebe	" 20	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
Horned Grebe	" 21	254 Chautauqua Lake	Rew, Swanson
* <u>Eared Grebe</u>	" 23	1 Sturgeon Point, Evans	Bourne
	" 25	1 Sturgeon Point, Evans	Grzybowski, Mrozek
Pied-b. Grebe	" 22,24	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
D.-cr. Cormorant	" 2	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Webster, Bill
Great Blue Heron	" 21	1 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Freitag, Hess
	" 28	1 Burntship Cr., Grand Is.	Klabundes
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	" 2	3 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	" 14	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Freitag
Whistling Swan	" 1,7	4,13 Chautauqua Lake	Swanson
	" 11	45 Chautauqua Lake	Emerson
	" 14	12 Chautauqua Lake	Pillsbury
	" 14	4 Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings
Canada Goose	" 21	2 Grand Island	Freitag, Hess
Blue Goose	" 2	1 Chautauqua Lake	Swanson
Gadwall	" 7	10 Chautauqua Lake	Swanson
	" 12	4 Niagara Falls, Ont	Brownstein
Amer. Widgeon	" 7	150 Chautauqua Lake	Swanson
Wood Duck	" 10	1 Belmont	Olmstead
	" 24	1 Belmont	Burtens
Redhead	" 21	162 Chaut. L. at Dewittville	Rew, Swanson
Ring-necked Duck	" 13	7 Cuba Lake	Burtens
	" 21	24 Chaut. L. at Dewittville	Rew, Swanson
Canvasback	" 25	3000 Chippawa, Ont.	Klabundes
Bufflehead	" 14	450 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Wendlings et al
	" 28	550 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski, Clark
King Eider	" 5F	2 Athol Springs	Bourne
Ruddy Duck	" 21	4 Burntship Cr., Grand Is.	Klabundes
Hooded Merganser	" 2	20 Clymer	Swanson
Turkey Vulture	" 3L	2 Lewiston	Klabundes
Sharp-sh. Hawk	" 7-30	1 Belmont	Burtens
Cooper's Hawk	" 9	1 Hamburg	Andrle
	" 12,19,20	1 Springbrook	Schafer
	" 13,25	1 Belmont	Burtens
	" 21	1 Jamestown	Beal
	" 23	1 Lake View	Bourne
Red-sh. Hawk	" 2	2 Clymer	Swanson



Vol. 31, No. 12 - Noteworthy Records (Cont.)

Rough-l. Hawk	Nov. 9	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 20	2 Belmont	Burtens, Olmstead
	" 25	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski, Mrozek
	" 26	1 Boston	Bourne
	" 29	2 Lancaster	Kikta
*Golden Eagle	" 21,22	1 Lancaster (adult)	Grzybowski
Chukar	" 21	12 Shadigee Rd., Newfane	Grzybowski et al
Turkey	" 12	1 Jamestown	Beal
American Coot	" 7	200 Chautauqua Lake	Swanson
	" 21	238 Chaut. L. at Mayville	Rew, Swanson
	" 27	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Killdeer	" 28	5 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski, Clark
Greater Yellowlegs	" 4L	1 Port Colborne, Ont.	Freitag
Purple Sandpiper	" 4	2 Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Freitag
	" 6	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 6	1 Wilson Harbor	Wendlings et al
	" 13	5 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 28	5 Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski, Clark
W.-rump. Sandp.	" 6	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 13L	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Dunlin	" 14	55 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Wendlings et al
	Nov. 28	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Clark
*Red Phalarope	Nov. 3F	2 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 23	1 Sturgeon Point, Evans	Bourne
	" 25	1 Sturgeon Point, Evans	Grzybowski, Mrozek
	Nov. 26L	1 Sturgeon Point, Evans	Rybczynski, Kikta
Iceland Gull			
( <u>L.g. glaucoides</u> )	Nov. 6F	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Black-headed Gull	" 1	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski
Franklin's Gull	" 4	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle, Dorr
	" 6	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Wendlings et al
Bonaparte's Gull	" 1	8000 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski
	" 6	5000 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Wendlings et al
Little Gull	" 1	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski
	" 6	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Wendlings et al
	" 6	1 Dunnville, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 7	2 Lewiston	Klabundes
	" 20	1 Lewiston	Wendlings
Common Tern	" 1	150 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski
	" 13	2 Cuba Lake	Burton
Snowy Owl	"17F,26	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	" 21	1 Niagara Pkwy., LaSalle	Grzybowski et al
Long-eared Owl	" 14	2 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Short-eared Owl	" 15,30	1,7 Lyndonville	Smiths
Pileated Wdpkr.	" 22	1 Springbrook	Danner
Red-bel. Wdpkr.	" 5	1 Belmont (f)	Burton et al
	" 19	1 Houghton	Carpenters
	" 24	1 Angelica	Burton, Dodson,
			Marsh
	" 26	1 Caneadea	Burton, Hale
Red-h. Wdpkr.	" 7	1 Wellsville	Burton
Bl.-b. Th.-t. Wdpkr."	" 21	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtell
Horned Lark			
( <u>E.a.alpestris</u> )	" 2	4 Elma	Kikta
Tufted Titmouse	" 1-30	4-8 Athol Springs	Csont

Tufted Titmouse	Nov. 2	2 Mayville	Swanson
	" 11	1 Buffalo	Rybczynski
Red-br. Nuthatch	" 1-30	2-3 Springbrook (f)	Danner
	" 7,23	1 Wellsville	Burton
	" 9-29	2 Lyndonville (f)	Smiths
	" 11	1 Belmont	Burton
	" 18	1 Toad Hollow	Bourne
	" 20	10 Allegany State Park	Pillsbury
Winter Wren	" 30	1 Belmont	Olmstead
Carolina Wren	" 22	1 Port Stockholm (f)	Swanson
	" 25,28,29	1 Greenhurst (f)	Swanson
Mockingbird	" 1-16	1 Belmont	Burtens
	" 11	1 Grand Island	Klabundes
	" 26	1 Athol Springs	Csont
Robin	" 1,2 150,75	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Hermit Thrush	" 16,19	1 Ashland Ave., Buffalo	Emerson
	" 21	1 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Grzybowski et al
Eastern Bluebird	" 3	1 near Ridgeway, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 26L	1 Langford	Bourne
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	" 6	4 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Klabundes
	" 11L	1 Athol Springs	Csont
Water Pipit	" 11L	1 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
Northern Shrike	" 2-30	1-2 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	" 6	1 near Chippawa	Brownstein et al
	" 14	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings
	" 14	1 Wellsville	Burton
	" 15,30	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 18,26	1 Belmont	Burtens
	" 21	1 Grand Island	Freitag, Hess
	" 28	1 Wainfleet, Ont.	Grzybowski, Clark
Myrtle Warbler	" 21	7 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Grzybowski et al
	" 25	1 Duff. Is., Nia.Falls, Ont.	Klabundes
E. Meadowlark	" 29	1 Lancaster	Kikta
Red-w. Blackbird	" 28	15 Dunnville, Ont.	Grzybowski, Clark
	" 30	1 Belmont	Burton
Rusty Blackbird	" 26	2 Belmont	Burton
Common Grackle	" 28	200 Dunnville, Ont.	Grzybowski, Clark
	" 29,30	1 Williamsville	Wendlings
	" 30	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Br.-h. Cowbird	" 28	51 Dunnville, Ont.	Grzybowski, Clark
Evening Grosbeak	" 1	14 Lake Ontario Plain	Grzybowski
	" 1,2,11 6,1,18	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 4	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
	" 6,7,9 5,1,3	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	" 7,10,18 50,25,35	Wellsville	Burtens
	" 7,10,18 4,4,5	Belmont	Burtens
	" 8,26,27 2,6,10	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 18	3 Ashland Ave., Buffalo	Emerson
	" 18,24 2,20	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 19	2 Lewiston	Klabundes
	" 20	25 Allegany State Park	Pillsbury
	" 23,30 7,1	Springbrook	Schafer
	" 24	15 Birdsall	Burtens
	" 25	2 Bowmansville (f)	Grzybowski



*Pine Grosbeak	Nov. 7,9	1 Lewiston (dead)	Klabundes
	" 14	3 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Freitag
	" 14	2 Springville	True
	" 14	4 Snyder	Brownsteins
	" 20	3 Angelica	Olmstead
	" 20	1 Allegany St. Pk. (dead)	Pillsbury
	" 20	3 Youngstown Cemetery	Wendlings
	" 25	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Com. Redpoll	" 26,30	4,12 Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 1	25 Lake Ontario Plain	Grzybowski
	" 1	15 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 1-30	1-33 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	" 6,13,20	12,2,2 Tonawanda	Rathbun
	" 7	2 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Freitag
	" 9,16	12 Sargent Dr., Snyder	Brownstein
	" 14	2 Chestnut Ridge Park	Andrle
	" 14,25	1,3 Jamestown	Beal
	" 15,20	50,35 Belmont	Burtens
	" 17,18,23	25,5,50 Wellsville	Burtens
	" 18,30	8 Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 19	200 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
	" 24,29	25,2 Belmont	Burtens
	" 25	7 over Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Pine Siskin	" 1	49 Lake Ontario Plain	Grzybowski
	" 1	2 Lewiston	Klabundes
	" 1,2,4	2,4,4 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 3,14,20	2,1,50 Belmont	Burtens
	" 7	4 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Freitag
	" 11	50 Riverside	Pillsbury
	" 17	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	" 20	8 Allegany State Park	Pillsbury
	" 21,28	7,50 Belmont	Burtens
	" 23	50 Wellsville	Burtens
Red Crossbill	Nov. 1	6 Wilson Cemetery	Grzybowski
	Nov. 6	8 Como Park, Lancaster	Kikta, Rybcynski
*White-w. Crossb.	Nov. 1	11 Wilson Cemetery	Grzybowski
	Nov. 1	2 Springville	True
	Nov. 2	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	Nov. 4	3 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
	Nov. 6	15 Beaver Meadow Refuge	Benham
	" 6	8 Long Beach, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 6	5 Youngstown Cemetery	Wendlings
	" 6,21	6,2 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	" 12	10 Youngstown Cemetery	Klabundes
	" 21	5 Wilson	Grzybowski et al
R.-s. Towhee	" 1	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 1-4	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
	" 2	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
	" 19L	1 Lakewood	Beal
Vesper Sparrow	" 2,4L	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Chipping Sparrow	" 4	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
	" 11,13L	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Field Sparrow	" 28	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Clark
	" 28	1 Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski, Clark
White-thr. Sparrow	" 9-30	1 Sargent Dr., Snyder	Brownsteins
	" 21-30	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells

White-thr. Spar.	Nov. 29	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Fox Sparrow	" 4-8	2 Springbrook	Schafer
	" 5-14L	2 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
Swamp Sparrow	" 11	2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 21	1 Bentley Sanctuary	Rew, Swanson
Lapland Longspur	" 2F	1 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 21	1 over Newfane	Grzybowski et al
Snow Bunting	" 1-30	1-14 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
	" 6	8 Elma	Rybczynski et al
	" 10,28	12 Wellsville	Burtons
	" 11,26	30 Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Freitags
	" 14	15 Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings et al
	" 16	5 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	" 20	35 Athol Springs	Bourne
	" 20	5 Belmont	Burtons
	" 20,29	5,100 Angelica	Olmstead
	" 21	60 over Newfane	Grzybowski et al
	" 25	30 Chippawa, Ont.	Klabundes
	" 26	35 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Freitags
	" 27	2 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	" 28	9 Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski, Clark

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded: 263  
 Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue: 6  
 Total for 1965: 269

Errata:

Volume 31

p. 65: \*Least Flycatcher, May 2, 2, Point Gratiot, Bronstein, Mrozek  
should read \*Least Flycatcher, May 2, 1, Portland, Brownstein

p. 67: Pine Warbler, May 2, 3, Dunkirk, Grzybowski et al should read  
 Pine Warbler, May 2, 2, Dunkirk, Grzybowski et al

p. 79: Semipalm. Sandp., July 11F, 2, Grant Point, Ont., Grzybowski et al  
should read Semipalm. Sandp., July 10F, 2, Grant Point, Ont., Grzybowski  
 et al

p. 88: Great Blue Heron, Aug. 23, 75, Eden, Bourne should read  
 Great Blue Heron, Aug. 23, 3, Eden, Bourne

p. 103: Wilson's Phala., Sept. 4, 1, Erie Beach, Ont., Rybczynski, Kikta  
should read Wilson's Phala., Sept. 4, 1, Erie Beach, Ont., Rybczynski,  
 Kikta

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STATISTICIANS' NOTE

Reports of Pine Grosbeaks during the first four months of 1966 will  
 not require verifying write-ups, unless specifically requested by the  
 Statisticians.

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GENERAL NOTES

A report on contents of Snowy Owl pellets - Between mid-January and mid-April, 1965, twenty-six pellets were collected in a quarter-mile area along the Niagara River near Frenchmen's Creek, two miles north of Fort Erie, Ontario.

These were gathered beneath two trees and six telephone poles where Snowy Owls were frequently seen perched, and on ground areas where they had landed. At least four individuals had visited the area: 1 larger male, 1 smaller male and two females, one of which was electrocuted during a storm. One or more of these owls were sighted by the author at some time of the day on 50 of the 95 days between January 7 and April 13, 1965. They frequently remained all day. No other species of owl has been sighted in this area by myself or my family.

The pellets, as analyzed by Dr. Harold Axtell of the Buffalo Museum of Science, contained remains of at least 71 Meadow Voles, Microtus pennsylvanicus, 5 Norway Rats, Rattus norvegicus, and 2 Starlings, Sturnus vulgaris. Other than one feather of a Snowy Owl, there appeared to be no remains of other species.

In the pellets that contained mice, there was an average of more than three mice per pellet. These findings give strong support to the usual view that this large owl is a beneficial visitor.- R.L. Sommerville, Frenchman's Lane W., Niagara Parkway, Fort Erie, Ontario.

Sharp-shinned Hawk molested by Starlings - Having on occasion watched Sharp-shinned Hawks "toy" with Red-winged Blackbirds by chasing them into thickets, it amazed me recently to see a Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus) being harassed by a flock of Starlings (Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris) as it circled overhead.

On October 4, 1965, I observed a Sharp-shinned Hawk circling about, with some fifty Starlings directly above him. Those Starlings nearest the hawk would peck at him. Occasionally the hawk would fly up among the Starlings and then they would encircle him and independently dive at him, skillfully avoiding his talons and beak. The hawk would then separate himself from the bulk of the flock to contend with an occasional peck from one or two birds with the rest in formation behind them. As the hawk moved out of sight, the Starlings were still pursuing him.- Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, Lancaster, New York.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Hanford Bay - Each year I plant gladiolus bulbs late in the summer for late fall blooms. This year they were unusually late.

The Hummingbirds had been coming to our garden all summer to feed on the various flowers which were blooming. During the month of September a pair were at the glad blooms nearly every day, sometimes just one at a time at other times together. On September 29 a female was in alone, on October 1 a male was alone, on October 3 both a male and a female, on October 6th, 8th and 9th a female was alone, on October 10 a male, on October 11 a female, and on October 16 at 9:05 A.M. both a male and female were at the glad blooms. That was the last time that they were observed. - R.H. Hesselbart, Silver Creek, New York.



ETHOLOGY: A NEW SCIENCE DEFINED

Part III - The Ethological Study

By Joanna Burger

There is much work to be done in the field of ethology. Some of it is beyond our scope, but significant and needed research can be undertaken by any interested, careful observer. In this article the author will discuss the types, methods and tools of an ethological study.

Describing Behavior

Behavior is ephemeral: it is here and is gone. For this reason a very careful study of all behavior is necessary. One must be as objective as possible and simply describe each and every action.

In describing behavior one must realize that there are intraindividual variations as well as intraspecific variations. An adequate sample size is required. This does not mean if one has a pair of Catbirds nesting in the back yard, behavior should not be noted. It merely means that one should be careful in drawing conclusions. It is always wise to compare one's behavioral observations with any published material. Individual variation is always worth noting.

All behaviors have speed, duration, amplitude and frequency. Each of these characteristics should be carefully noted and recorded. Records are necessary, as it is easy to forget something which may seem insignificant at the time it is observed. One never knows what behaviors may be significant in the experiment.

Each of the above characteristics should be measured quantitatively. It is not enough to say something is frequent or rare. What is rare to one observer may seem common to another observer. For example, in observing the foraging behavior of any species, one should note the length of time spent at one feeding, the frequency with which a species feeds, how much is eaten in each feeding period, what was eaten, how it was eaten, and the motions involved in each segment of the entire foraging behavior.

Peripheral observations should be noted, no matter how irrelevant they seem. For example, in the case of our foraging bird, weather conditions, flock conditions, physical conditions (high or low water level, abundance of algae, etc.) and any other observable factors should be noted. Although one may be looking for the effect of one given factor on the species and its behavior, other factors should always be taken into consideration and noted. In the initial stages of the experiment one should not be so biased as to overlook a significant factor. Only by careful observation of ALL factors can the key factor be isolated.

Once the entire behavior pattern is described it should be broken into acts. This is often difficult. Let us consider our avian friend foraging again. What are the parts of the feeding behavior? Does it lower its head, open its bill, lift its tail, lift its wings? The order of each small segment or act of the behavior pattern should be noted. This is not as easy as it seems. Try breaking the behavior pattern of flight into acts.



Once behaviors are observed and carefully described, they should be labeled. There is no sense in describing a behavior in detail every time one speaks of it. In naming behaviors, however, caution must be exercised to avoid biasing the observer. Function should never be indicated by the label. If a bird is observed sitting upright with head tilted upward when faced with an enemy, we should not name it the "aggressive upright." This tends to bias the observer and readers in the belief that it is aggressive, when it may well have some entirely different function.

Several devices can be used to describe behavior more efficiently. If notes are hand recorded, symbols and abbreviations may be used for key terms. Tape recorders free the observer from writing and allow him to keep constant watch on the animals. Movies may also be used effectively. It allows the behavior pattern to be observed repeatedly, enabling several trained ethologists to corroborate a given behavior pattern. With movies we can slow down a behavior pattern or even stop it at any point.

### Types of Studies

Basically there is the Lab Study and the Field Study. Both of these require a careful descriptive study. Indeed, the study may go no further than careful description. There are many avian species whose behavior has not been carefully studied; these studies are necessarily prerequisite to more complicated experiments.

Lab and field studies can be approached either from an individual or comparative standpoint. Behavior can be described and interpreted in terms of an individual or single species, or through comparison with that of closely related species. A comparative approach is often helpful in determining evolutionary relationships.

The lab study is one carried out entirely in the laboratory. However, a good lab study requires a previous field study to determine the species-typical behavior. Lab studies are easier to control in that the animals are free from external conditions. However, simply maintaining animals in the lab can be a problem. Innate and learning behaviors are often studied in the lab where parental and specific influences can be removed.

Field studies can be descriptive, natural or controlled. A natural experiment is one in which there is a factor to test, but it is tested using natural controls. For example: suppose we want to know if the adult Killdeer responds to the cry of the sight of the young. Clearly a young bird wandering around quietly provides a sight stimulus, and when the young cries, both factors are present. But how do we test for sound alone? In the natural experiment the experimenter would wait until the young was not visible to the adult (as when the young is behind a tree or rock) and note the results. The Umwelt of the observed adult is left undisturbed, yet each factor has been observed separately.

In the controlled field experiment the experiment still takes place in the field, but the environment is affected by the experimenter. In the case of the Killdeer described above, the experimenter might record the cry of the young and play this back to the adult to observe the effect of the sound stimulus.



### Descriptive Field Study

Since the descriptive field study is the one we are most concerned with, it will be discussed here in greater detail. Study of an individual species in the field is common. In this type of study, data are collected about all phases of the behavior of one species. Often data may be accumulated for years before conclusions are drawn. It may involve study of the territories, ranges, and maintenance, reproductive, and agonistic behaviors, as well as general life history material.

Suppose one decided to study the behavior of the Spotted Sandpiper. Since it nests in this area, it provides a good subject. In addition to general observations, the observer would want to observe one or more pairs in detail. Once the territories are located there is much to be done.

Blinds will enable the observer to be close to the subject. Any object will do as long as it shields the observer from sight. The author often found a cardboard box functional and easy to transport. A few well-placed peepholes will serve as observation points. Canvas and sheets can be set up tent-fashion. Elaborate brush and vegetation blinds may be constructed, but are not necessary. The blind should be located a day or two in advance of the observation period, and may be located in proximity to the nest area. (In the case of the Sandpiper, the blind could be placed two or three feet from the nest.) Once located, it should not be moved. Given a couple of days, the birds will adjust to it and begin to ignore it. I once had a pair of birds take over a blind as an "observation post" of their own. It did make it difficult to observe their behavior from inside the blind, but that is one of the hazards of a close blind. Even a slow and quiet approach to the blind may frighten the birds away, but they will soon return.

One should never be inside a blind without at least a notebook and pencil. A watch is necessary to record the hours, duration and frequency of behaviors. Cameras and light meters are also helpful. I also found a sandwich and pillow very useful. An observer never knows how long he may be in his blind. I once sat in a blind for 6 straight hours because eggs were hatching.

Once he is comfortably settled, the observer's work begins. He should note the date, time and weather conditions for each observation period. Each behavior should be described in as much detail as possible, taking note of its speed, duration, amplitude and frequency. The simplest facts should be noted: the direction the bird faces; the direction it flew in from; the location of the spot where it lands prior to landing on the nest, etc.

If the bird under study isn't nesting, a blind may be of no use, and the observer may find adequate coverage in the surrounding vegetation.

Maps are very useful tools. If a considerable number of observations are being made in one area, maps may be mimeoed and observations recorded on the maps. Landmarks should be noted, and distances accurately designated. Maps are especially useful in a study of territories. Individual territories or the territories of all birds in an area can be easily plotted over a period of time.



The most expedient tool should always be employed. It is often easier, for example, to diagram a behavioral pattern rather than describe it.

Should you have trouble locating a given nest, this idea may help. Using a map of the area, draw a line from the spot where you are standing to the point at which the bird disappears. Repeat the procedure from different reference points, extending the lines until they cross. Often all the lines will cross at about the same point. A check of this point in the territory often reveals the nest.

It is often interesting to study the interspecific behavior as well as the intraspecific behavior in a given area. Ponds and marshes lend themselves well to this type of study. A species list must be determined for the area, before the behavior study can begin. Feeding and nesting territories of the inhabitants can be studied, as well as the numbers of transients that will use the pond as a forage area. This type of study often requires observations over a long period of time to determine trends in the area. Because succession (the orderly sequence of vegetation types in the area) is always occurring, the avian species will also change. This provides an interesting point of study.

Regardless of the type of study one undertakes, several general principles apply. Careful and accurate notes should always be taken. All behavior should be described in a way that does not bias the observer or reader, and physical factors, as well as biotic factors, should be noted. Observations should be closely scrutinized in the light of published material. Many good behavioral observations can be made by the careful observer, but they must be recorded accurately at the time of the observation.

Regardless of the merit of the research, it has no real value unless it is published. This does not mean that all observations are worthless unless published, but if something significant is discovered, it is wasted unless it is available for others. Only if people are aware of these observations may they be further studied and retested. Knowledge is lost with the individual unless it is recorded. With the privilege of investigation goes the responsibility of dissemination of the knowledge.

SUGGESTED SOURCES OF RELIABLE INFORMATION

ON CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

Compiled by Richard and Gretchen Stevenson

Conservation News - National Wildlife Federation  
1412 - 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Published semi-monthly. Free.

Audubon Magazine - National Audubon Society  
1130 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10028  
Published bi-monthly. \$7.00 per year.

The Living Wilderness - The Wilderness Society  
729 - 15th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Published quarterly. \$5.00 per year.

National Parks Magazine - The National Parks Association  
1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Published monthly. \$6.50 per year.

Defender of Wildlife News - Defenders of Wildlife  
731 Dupont Circle Building  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Published quarterly. \$5.00 per year.

The Conservationist - New York State Conservation Department  
Albany, New York 12226  
Published bi-monthly. \$2.00 per year.

NEW MEMBERS

The Buffalo Ornithological Society welcomes the following new members in the categories indicated:

Active - Dee Bigelow, Eden, N.Y.

Associate - Flossie Lortz, Wilson, N.Y.

Corresponding

Joan C. Boyd, Cassadaga, N.Y.  
Lou Burton, Belmont, N.Y.  
Charles R. Gallaway, Silver Creek, N.Y.  
Thomas D. Welch, Silver Creek, N.Y.



PUBLICATIONS OF THE BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1965

The Buffalo Ornithological Society is now ending what is perhaps the most productive year in its 35-year history for revision of its printed materials. The following is a complete catalog of all B.O.S. materials, with the pertinent facts about each.

1. Buffalo Ornithological Society Field Check-list  
Revised and reprinted December 1965  
Price: B.O.S. members - free  
Nonmembers - 1¢ each in minimum lots of 10 (includes postage)  
Source: B.O.S. Librarian - Miss Margaret Wendling  
87 Garrison Rd., Williamsville, N.Y. 14221
2. Verification Forms for Unusual Records  
Revised and reprinted August 1965  
Price: Free  
Source: B.O.S. Librarian (See above)
3. Verification Date Guide, Third Edition  
Revised and reprinted June 1965  
Price: 50¢ per copy (includes postage)  
Source: B.O.S. Treasurer - Mrs. Walter Klabunde  
4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092
4. Membership Roster of the Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Revised and reprinted September 1965  
Price: One copy was mailed free to all classes of membership except Corresponding in November 1965. Copies for Corresponding members and additional copies - 25¢ (includes postage). Not available to nonmembers.  
Source: Chairman Roster Revision Committee - Kathryn Praemassing  
87 Linden Avenue  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14214
5. 28 Sectional Division Maps of B.O.S. Territory  
Price: \$1.00 unbound; \$1.50 with binder (includes postage)  
Source: B.O.S. Treasurer - See #3 above.  
Note: 4 of 28 projected map write-ups have been completed but are not available at this time with the purchase of maps. They are obtainable only through the purchase of the back issues of the Prothonotary in which the write-ups have been published.
6. The Prothonotary  
A monthly publication of the Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Price: \$1.50 per year; 15¢ each for back issues  
Source: B.O.S. Treasurer - See #3 above.

PROGRAMS - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M., from September through June.

January 12 - Symposium on Identification and Distribution of Water Fowl, Frances Rew, chairman. Report on Christmas Bird Count by Dr. and Mrs. Harold Axtell. Assignment of territories for January Water Fowl Count.

January 26 - Slides by Harold Dodge, "Forty-five Minutes from Broadway."

February 9 - Annual Quiz, "Bird Anatomy", by Arthur Clark.  
Report on January Water Fowl Count by Harold Mitchell.

February 23 - Regular Meeting - Program to be announced.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

January 16 - Water Fowl Count. For assignment of territories please contact the leader, Harold Mitchell, 238 W. Royal Pkwy., Williamsville, N.Y. 14221 (633-8612).

January 30 - Ontario Plain - Meet 8:30 A.M. at Tops Market parking lot, Lewiston, N.Y. (at intersection of Center Street with Route 104 and the Robert Moses Parkway). Leaders Dr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde (754-4424).

February 13 - Rochester Area - Meet 7:30 A.M. at University Plaza. Leaders Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ulrich (833-8896).

\*\*\*\*\*

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, LANCASTER, N.Y. 14086. (NT4-5128)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

BACK ISSUES: Available at \$.15 per copy from the Treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$1.50 per year, payable to the Treasurer.

EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301



# INDEX TO VOLUME 31

Bird records from the Noteworthy Records Section and the B.O.S. Bird Counts requiring written verification reports according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) are included in this index.

- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bittern, American, 2              | Plover, Piping, 89                   |
| Bobwhite, 32, 64                  | Redhead, 102                         |
| Chukar, 114, 131                  | Sandpiper, Buff-breasted, 103        |
| Crossbill, Red, 105, 133          | Curlew, 103                          |
| White-winged, 133                 | Spotted, 49                          |
| Dickcissel, 116                   | White-rumped, 85                     |
| Dowitcher, Short-billed, 64       | Shoveler, 2                          |
| Duck, Ring-necked, 78, 102        | Shrike, Northern, 115                |
| Dunlin, 3, 25, 89, 131            | Sparrow, Chipping, 133               |
| Eagle, Golden, 131                | Field, 27                            |
| Finch, House, 80                  | Fox, 4, 17                           |
| Flycatcher, Olive-sided, 65       | Harris, 17                           |
| Godwit, Hudsonian, 103            | Lincoln's, 116                       |
| Goose, White-fronted              | White-throated, 77, 80, 90           |
| <u>A. a. flavirostris</u> , 47    | Swallow, Rough-winged, 50            |
| Goshawk, 14                       | Swan, Mute, 24, 47, 63               |
| Grebe, Eared, 130                 | Swift, Chimney, 115                  |
| Grosbeak, Pine, 133               | Tern, Common, 10, 15                 |
| Gull, Black-headed, 103, 115, 131 | Warbler, Kentucky, 67                |
| Franklin's, 3                     | Mourning, 116                        |
| Hawk, Pigeon, 49                  | Myrtle, 66, 77, 79                   |
| Red-shouldered, 2                 | Palm, 105                            |
| Rough-legged, 77, 114             | Pine, 51, 67                         |
| Kingbird, Eastern, 50, 115        | Prairie, 67, 77                      |
| Kinglet, Golden-crowned, 65, 77   | Yellow, 105                          |
| Ruby-crowned, 10                  | Waxwing, Bohemian, 16, 51            |
| Nighthawk, Common, 115            | Wheatear, 105                        |
| Oriole, Baltimore, 116            | Willet, 103                          |
| Orchard, 67                       | Woodpecker, Red-bellied, 33, 50, 131 |
| Phalarope, Red, 131               | Wren, Rock, 3                        |
| Wilson's, 89                      |                                      |

## CONTRIBUTORS

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Robert F. Andrie   | Roger T. Peterson     |
| Harold H. Axtell   | Frances M. Rew        |
| Richard Brownstein | Richard C. Rosche     |
| Joanna Burger      | Edward L. Seeber      |
| Stephen W. Eaton   | Dr. R. L. Sommerville |
| Joseph Grzybowski  | Gretchen Stevenson    |
| R. H. Hesselbart   | Richard Stevenson     |
| Harriette Klabunde | Joseph F. Thill       |
| Walter Klabunde    | Alice E. Ulrich       |
| Whitney W. Mallam  | Edward C. Ulrich      |
| Harold D. Mitchell | Gertrude Webster      |
| Bernard Nathan     | Marie Wendling        |

INDEX TO VOLUME 31 (cont.)

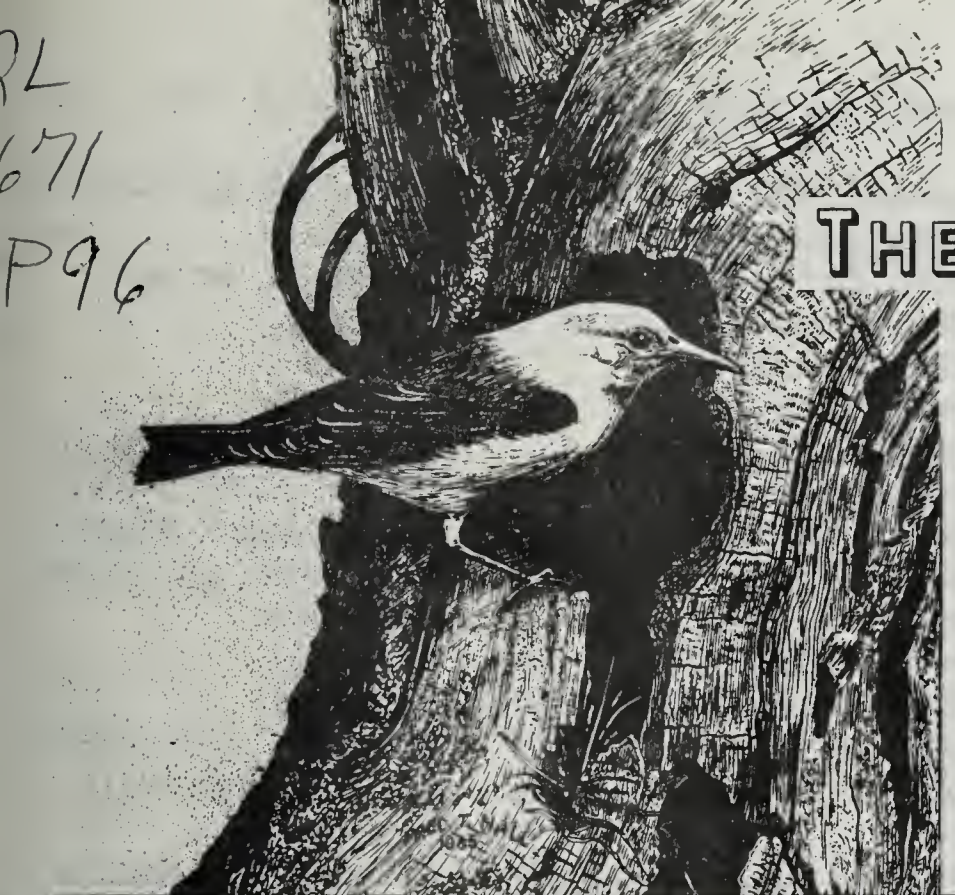
- Annual Winter Waterfowl Counts, 1955 - 1964, 21  
Avocet, American (note of first record), 28  
Bird Counts - April, 57  
    Christmas, 8 (In B.O.S. Territory, 6)  
    January Waterfowl, 19 (Chart 1955-1964, 21)  
    May, 70  
    October, 117  
    Shorebird, 85  
Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region  
    Publication note, 44; Book Review, 55; Comments on review, 82  
Bluebird Nesting Report, 95  
B.O.S. Officers, Committees and Council, 1965-1966, 124  
B.O.S. Publications Catalog, December 1965, 141  
Christmas Bird Counts (1964-65) in B.O.S. Territory, 6  
Ethology, Part I: A New Science Defined, 109  
    Part II: General Ethological Principles, 121  
    Part III: The Ethological Study, 136  
General Notes  
    Dunlin (large number), 68  
    Loggerhead Shrike takes Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 69  
    Oregon Junco (first specimen), 106  
    Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Hanford Bay, 135  
    Sharp-shinned Hawk molested by Starlings, 135  
    Snowy Owl pellets analyzed, 135  
    Wood Duck preys on Mallard, 69  
Hawk Migrations - April 1965, 52  
House Finch Advances to Western New York, 107  
Laboratory of Ornithology - Open Letter, 97  
The Month, 1, 13, 24, 30, 46, 62, 76, 78, 88, 100, 113, 129  
Nathan, Bernard H., Peterson Tribute, 18  
North American Nest Record Card Program, 86  
Notes and News, 44, 60, 98, 111  
Nesting Records, 1965, 80  
Nesting Season at Axtells, 1964, 35  
New Prothonotary Editor, 86  
New Members, 103, 140  
Noteworthy Records, 2, 14, 24, 31, 46, 62, 76, 78, 88, 101, 114, 130  
    Addendum to Vol. 29, 5; Vol 30, 5  
    Errata, Vol. 31, 134  
Ontario Plain, Field trip report, 22  
President's Report, Excerpts, 125  
Programs, 12, 23, 29, 45, 61, 75, 78, 87, 99, 112, 128, 142  
Prothonotary Staff, September 1965, 98; 1965-1966, 125  
Refuge Committee Report, Part I, 91  
Rosche Retires as Editor, 98  
Statisticians' Notes, 5, 27, 52, 68, 77, 78, 90, 106, 134  
Suggested Sources of Legislation Information, 140  
Two Recent Additions to the Avifauna of the Niagara Frontier Region, 28  
Winter Waterfowl Counts, 1955-1964, 21  
Wren, Rock (note of first record), 28











# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

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Volume 32

January 1966

Number 1

## THE MONTH

December was unusually mild. The average temperature was 6.6 degrees above the mean, and precipitation was four tenths of an inch below normal. Only during the first two days was snow deeper than two inches, and the ground was bare much of the time. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

Snowy Owl reports from only a few localities indicate a small "shadow flight" following the major invasion of a year ago. In spite of a considerable influx of Evening Grosbeaks, feeding station operators in all directions from Buffalo report only limited visits from these birds. In winters when these grosbeaks are present, they normally soon become regular daily visitors at many feeding stations south of the latitude of Buffalo. The big autumn migration of Pine Siskins apparently continued entirely to the south of our study area, if we are to judge by the complete absence of December reports. The year ended with a sighting of a Black-headed Gull - the first in nearly two months. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.



Vol. 32, No. 1 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Common Loon	Dec.	6	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta et al
*Red-thr. Loon	"	9	1 Sturgeon Point	Bourne
	"	11	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	25	1 Nia.R. at Miller's Cr.	Freitag
Horned Grebe	"	9	1 Sturgeon Point	Bourne
	"	9	3 Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitags
	"	10,11	1,3 Fort Erie, Ont.	Mitchell et al
Pied-b. Grebe	"	6	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Great Blue Heron	"	4	1 Grand Island	Klabundes
	"	4,24	1 Springbrook	Danner
	"	5	1 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	14	1 Wellsville	Burton
	"	21	1 Chautauqua Lake	Swanson
	"	29	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Gadwall	"	29	5 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Axtell, Mitchell et al
Shoveler	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>29</u>	1 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Axtell, Mitchell et al
Wood Duck	Dec.	5,8	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Mitchell
Redhead	"	29	35 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Axtell, Mitchell et al
Ring-necked Duck	"	30	2 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham
Lesser Scaup	"	3	4 South Park, Buffalo	Danner, Schafer
	"	31	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells
Common Goldeneye	"	2	2300 Grand Island	Freitag, Rathbun
Surf Scoter	"	9	1 Sturgeon Point	Bourne
Common Scoter	"	9	6 Sturgeon Point	Bourne
Ruddy Duck	"	12	8 Chaut.L. at Maple Spr.	Rew, Swansons
	"	22,29	1 Buffalo Harbor	Kikta et al
Hooded Merganser	"	12	14 Chaut. L. at Mayville	Rew, Swansons
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	2,8-30	1 Belmont	Burton
	"	23	1 Cuba Lake	Burton
Cooper's Hawk	"	8	1 Elma	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	11	1 Boston	Bourne
Red-t. Hawk	"	19	7 Youngstown-Wilson	Klabundes
Rough-l. Hawk	"	19	3 Youngstown-Wilson	Klabundes
	"	27,28	1 Lancaster	Mitchell
	"	27	1 Alden	Benham
	"	29	1 Sturgeon Point	Bourne
Marsh Hawk	"	28	2 Elma	Danner
Sparrow Hawk	"	19	11 Youngstown-Wilson	Klabundes
Chukar	"	18	1 Fowlerville	Andrle, Bourne
Turkey	"	14,24	8,1 Wellsville, West Almond	Burton
	"	21	3 Angelica	Olmstead
American Coot	"	12	447 Chautauqua Lake	Rew, Swansons
Killdeer	"	4,6	2,3 Belmont, Wellsville	Burtens
	"	9	2 Erie Beach, Ont.	Freitags
	"	28	1 Dunkirk	Swanson
Greater Yellowl.	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>4</u>	1 Grand Island	Klabundes
Red Phalarope	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>6</u>	1 Canadaway Cr., Dunkirk	Stanleys, Gilbert, Benton
Glaucous Gull	Dec.	8	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
	"	25	1 Queenston, Ont.	Freitag
	"	30	3 Niagara Falls - Queenston, Ont.	Benham
	"	31	6 Niagara River	Axtells



Vol. 32, No. 1 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Iceland Gull	Dec.	9	1 Sturgeon Point	Bourne
	"	9	1 Adam Beck Reservoir	Freitag
	"	25	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Freitag
	"	30	1 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	30	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Freitag
	"	31	5 Niagara River	Axtells
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	"	31	1 Queenston, Ont.	Axtells
<u>Little Gull</u>	"	18	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
Common Tern	<u>Dec.</u>	16	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitags
Mourning Dove	<u>Dec.</u>	17, 19, 28	35, 18, 16 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	22, 28	36, 125 Elma, Marilla	Danner, Schafer
	"	29	45 Elma	Rybczynski, Kikta
	(maxima for the month)			
Snowy Owl	Dec.	1	1 Squaw Island, Buffalo	Andrle, Byron
	"	9, 23	1 Grand Island	Freitag
	"	12	1 Times Beach, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	29	1 Niagara Falls	Klabundes
Short-e. Owl	"	2-28	1-11 Lyndonville	Smiths
Belted Kingfisher	"	1-31	1-3 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	5	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	12	1 Springbrook	Danner
	"	14	4 Wellsville	Burton
	"	29	1 Sturgeon Point	Bourne
Yel.-sh. Flicker	"	11	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	27	2 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	28	6 Brocton	Swanson
	"	29	7 Lancaster	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	29	1 over Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Red-bel. Wdpkr.	"	17	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Bl.-b. 3-t. Wdpkr.	"	8	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
Horned Lark				
( <u>E.a. praticola</u> )	Dec.	22	100 Elma	Schafer, Danner
Tufted Titmouse	"	12	1 Mayville (f)	Rew, Swanson
	"	20-31	1-2 Lewiston	Klabundes
		31	1 Angola	Wendlings, Stevenson
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	1-31	2-3 Springbrook (f)	Danner
Catbird	"	1	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Robin	"	8	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Kikta
	"	12	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	13	1 Humboldt Pk., Buffalo	Andrle
	"	29, 30	1, 1 Scio, Belmont	Burton
Hermit Thrush	"	2	1 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Freitag, Rathbun
Northern Shrike	"	1-8	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	1-31	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	2	1 Grand Island	Freitag
	"	5	1 Springbrook	Schafer
	"	6	1 Lakeview	Bourne
	"	8	1 Cheektowaga	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	19	1 Balmer Rd., Porter	Klabundes
	"	28	1 Dunkirk	Swanson
	"	29	1 William St., Lancaster	Kikta, Rybczynski
	"	29	1 Harris Hill Rd., Lanc.	Grzybowski
	"	30	1 Queenston, Ont.	Benham
E. Meadowlark	"	2	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	6	1 Lancaster	Kikta
	"	28	1 Cheektowaga	Rybczynski

Red-w. Blackbird	Dec. 6-27	1-2 Belmont	Burtens
	" 12-31	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Rusty Blackbird	" 11	1 Belmont	Burtens
Common Grackle	" 1,29	1 Williamsville	Wendlings
	" 6,17	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 18	1 Belmont	Burtens
B.-h. Cowbird	" 8-31	1-30 Belmont	Burtens
	" 27-29	12 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	" 28	1 Marilla	Schafer, Danner
Evening Grosbeak	" 2,3,7	47,15,10 Belmont	Burtens
	" 4-20	4-20 Belmont	Palmer
	" 9,11	7,1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	" 11,12	8,2 Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 12	3 Bemus Point	Rew, Swanson
	" 13	1 Springbrook (f)	Schafer
	" 23	5 Hamburg	Bourne
	" 28	20 Bear Lake	Swanson
	" 28	15 Caneadea	Burton
Purple Finch	" 23	1 Belmont	Palmer
Pine Grosbeak	" 4-29	5-12 Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 5	3 Queenston, Ont.	Klabundes
	" 12	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	" 19	4 Thunder Bay, Ont.	Letchworths
	" 22	8 Belmont	Olmstead
	" 25	10 Dufferin Islands, Ont.	Axtells
	" 27	10 Colden	Benham
	" 28	15,3 Dunkirk, Bear Lake	Swanson
	" 30	6 Dufferin Islands, Ont.	Benham
	" 31	15 Dufferin Islands, Ont.	Rew, Buck
Common Redpoll	" 3,8,27,28	10,1,4,4 Belmont	Burtens
	" 5,21,27	28,4,25 Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 10,11	2,1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	" 19	1 Thunder Bay, Ont.	Letchworths
	" 28	45 Orchard Park	Bourne
White-cr. Sparrow	" 4	1 Belmont (f)	Olmstead
	" 28	1 Dunkirk	Swanson
White-thr. Sparrow	" 5	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Swamp Sparrow	" 29,30	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
Song Sparrow	" 1-31	2 Belmont	Olmstead
	" 7	1 Orchard Park	Bourne
	" 11	2 Fort Erie, Nia. Falls, Ont.	Mitchell et al
Lapland Longspur	" 7	1 Elma	Schafer, Danner
Snow Bunting	" 7,22	75,6 Elma	Danner, Schafer
	" 8	105 Elma	Rybczynski
	" 14	150 Halls Cor., Wyo. Co.	Dodges
	" 16	6 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
	" 28	60 Ellery Center	Swanson
	" 31	35 Belmont	Burton

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded:	269
Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded in this issue:	<u>1</u>
Total for 1965	270



Errata to Vol. 31:

p.115: Red-bel. Woodpkr., Oct. 31, 1, Belmont, Palmer should read  
Red-bel. Woodpkr, Oct. 31, 1, Belmont, Palmer

p. 115: E. Wood Pewee, Oct. 1-10L, 1, Springbrook, Danner should read  
E. Wood Pewee, Oct. 1-14L, 1, Springbrook, Danner

Addenda to 1965 Records:

Shoveler	<u>Dec.</u> 23	1 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Schaffner
Surf Scoter	<u>Sept.</u> 27	40 Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner
Common Scoter	<u>Sept.</u> 27	22 Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner
Red-should. Hawk	<u>Jan.</u> 25	1 Niagara Falls, Ont. (banded)	Folemsbee
<u>Pigeon Hawk</u>	<u>Sept.</u> 26	1 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Grzybowski
<u>Piping Plover</u>	<u>Nov.</u> 2	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Schaffner et al
<u>Common Snipe</u>	<u>Jan.</u> 16	1 Fort Colborne, Ont.	Burger, Clark, Miller
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	<u>Sept.</u> 21	1 Bird Island Pier	Schaffner
<u>Common Tern</u>	<u>Dec.</u> 16	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Schaffner

GENERAL NOTES

Hawking Starlings. - In many ways the ubiquitous Starlings (Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris) repeatedly show how they vary their life habits in quest of food and shelter. Hole nesters as they are, they will enter any crevice around buildings as readily as they do any natural tree cavity when they seek homes. In winter they roost on any convenient shelf structure as bridges and building cornices afford. In feeding, the city dumps supply them with food, and they accept the handouts of feeding stations. Orchards and fields, parks and gardens serve as feeding areas. They generally feed on any available food and on grubs and insects taken from the ground.

To see them hawking comes as a surprise, and the more so when they take insects from the air close to the ground. During an unseasonably warm, over-cast October day, in a cut-over hay field where the ground cover of fodder had again taken on growth, a herd of grazing dairy cattle moved across the pasture in a fairly straight front. This movement stirred insects into flight away from the grazing animals. A flock of nearly one hundred Starlings fed in the field ahead of the cattle and moved away regularly as the cattle approached. Birds from this group would regularly fly upward and catch insects in the air, sometimes rising as high as fifteen feet in the take of their quarry. The success of this preying became apparent when with the use of binoculars, the observers could see the insects rise into the air, to be pursued and captured by the predaceous Starlings.

Here was another example of the adaptability of that European alien, and it demonstrates again the way Sturnus vulgaris uses an instance of coexistence to his advantage. - Edward C. Ulrich, 193 LaSalle Avenue, Buffalo, New York.

1965-66 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN B.O.S. TERRITORY

The following pages present the results of six Christmas Bird Counts taken within the boundaries of the B.O.S. study area, December 26, 1965, through January 2, 1966, as submitted by the Compiler for each count. We acknowledge the cooperation of the Allegany County observers, Richard C. Rosche, Compiler; Dr. Stephen W. Eaton (Olean Count); the Jamestown Audubon Society, Mrs. Elizabeth Pillsbury, Compiler; the Lake Erie Bird Club, Richard Miga, Compiler (Dunkirk Count); and the Buffalo Audubon Society, Richard C. Rosche, Compiler (Hamburg-East Aurora Count).

	Scio	Olean	Jamestown	Dunkirk	Hamburg- E.Aurora	Buffalo
Date	Jan. 1	Dec. 26	Dec. 26	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Dec. 26
Common Loon				2		
Horned Grebe				8		
Pied-b. Grebe				2		
Great Blue Heron	1	1	4	2		2
Whistling Swan			14			
Mallard			35	14	2	570
Black Duck			30	77		913
Gadwall			1			6
Pintail			1			33
Green-w. Teal			4			
Amer. Widgeon						139
Shoveler						1
Wood Duck						1
Redhead				6		25
Canvasback				74	1	3034
Greater Scaup			14		2	1177
Com. Goldeneye		1	18	48	74	1486
Bufflehead				27	2	160
Oldsquaw						1
White-w. Scoter						2
Surf Scoter						2
Common Scoter						1
Hooded Merganser		1	4			3
Common Merganser			6	25	53	4748
Red-br. Merganser					14	43
Sharp-sh. Hawk	3		1			1
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	1			
Red-t. Hawk	2	2	5	2	17	31
Rough-l. Hawk				1	3	1
Marsh Hawk			1			1
Sparrow Hawk	5	3	8	6	12	26
Ruffed Grouse	18	3	12	2	4	
Ring-n. Pheasant	6		26	4	408	65
Turkey	3					
Killdeer				3		
Glaucous Gull						7
Iceland Gull						4



	Scio	Olean	Jamestown	Dunkirk	Hamburg- E. Aurora	Buffalo
Date	Jan. 1	Dec. 26	Dec. 26	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Dec. 26
Great Bl.-b. Gull				15	7	147
Herring Gull	9	1	234	116	46	32000
Ring-b. Gull			85	4574	242	3589
Bonaparte's Gull			14	103	2	524
Mourning Dove	5		7	3	4	4
Screech Owl	1			1		4
Great Horned Owl	2		1			
Snowy Owl						2
Barred Owl					1	
Long-eared Owl					1	
Short-eared Owl						12
Saw-whet Owl						1
Belt. Kingfisher	7	2	5	3	3	1
Yel-sh. Flicker	3		3	2	4	6
Pileated Wdpkr.	6		2			
Red-bel. Wdpkr.					1	
Yel.-bel. Sapsucker					1	
Hairy Wdpkr.	39	8	31	4	47	14
Downy Wdpkr.	91	8	51	14	142	56
Horned Lark			4		2	
Blue Jay	229	49	83	18	137	85
Common Crow	286	88	16	26	1901	115
Black-c. Chickadee	370	109	326	74	611	191
Tufted Titmouse			3	4	7	2
White-br. Nuthatch	117	28	92	14	133	18
Red-br. Nuthatch	3	2			13	
Brown Creeper	3	1	9	2	9	3
Carolina Wren			1			
Brown Thrasher						1
Robin	4	1			2	3
Golden-cr. Kinglet			3		18	16
Cedar Waxwing		6		16	18	7
Northern Shrike	1	1			4	8
Starling	471		678	1036	600	30000
House Sparrow	1834	390	934	618	2719	1373
E. Meadowlark	9				2	
Red-w. Blackbird	2		3	1		8
Rusty Blackbird		1				
Common Grackle	6	1	9	7	10	7
Brown-h. Cowbird	49	1	17	4	13	63
Cardinal	49	11	71	27	146	52
Evening Grosbeak	221	21	78	92	6	
Purple Finch	2	1		1		
Pine Grosbeak	8	2			4	19
Common Redpoll	7	48				110
Pine Siskin		16			2	
Common Goldfinch	79	27	18		29	22
White-w. Crossbill	26	12				
Slate-col. Junco	73	71	32	11	159	16
Tree Sparrow	114	99	75	23	127	211

	Scio	Olean	Jamestown	Dunkirk	Hamburg- E.Aurora	Buffalo
Date	Jan. 1	Dec. 26	Dec. 26	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Dec. 26
Field Sparrow			2			
White-cr. Sparrow	1					
White-thr. Sparrow	6					
Swamp Sparrow			1			
Song Sparrow	9	5	8		5	4
Snow Bunting	1				70'	83
TOTAL SPECIES	44	35	50	45	52	65
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	4182	1022	3081	7112	6843	81260

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESReport of the Thirty-seventh B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count

Date: December 26, 1965

Area: Centering on Grand Island, including both branches of the Niagara River and adjacent territory, from the gorge below the Falls to Fort Erie and Buffalo.

Weather: Mostly clear: temperature 10 to 22 degrees F.; wind north, 10 m.p.h.; 2 inches of snow on ground; only shallow, quiet waters frozen.

Coverage: 38 observers in 16 parties. Field observation from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Groups covered 700 miles by car and about 123 miles on foot.

Territories and Observers:

A. Canada: Rainbow Bridge south to Welland River, and Niagara River west to M.C.R.R., Portage Road, and area boundary. - Joseph Grzybowski, Paul F. Hess.

B. Canada: Welland River south to Black Creek, and Niagara River west to Queen Elizabeth Way and area boundary. - Frank Folemsbee, Gustave Yaki.

C. Canada: Queen Elizabeth Way west to area boundary and south to Bowen Road. - Robert F. Andrle, Joseph F. Thill.

D. Canada: Black Creek south to Peace Bridge, and Niagara River west to Queen Elizabeth Way. - Mrs. John E. Bacon, Thomas Liston, Lucile Liston.

E. Canada: Bowen Road south to area boundary and east to Queen Elizabeth Way and Niagara River. - Harold H. Axtell, Rachel C. Axtell.



F. Porter Road, Hyde Park Blvd., Pine Avenue, and Main Street south to Niagara River, including Goat and Cayuga Islands, and east to Military Road. - Arthur Schaffner, Arthur Clark.

G. Military Road southeast to N.Y. State Barge Canal, and Niagara River northeast to area boundary. - Margaret Wendling, Marie Wendling.

H. Sheridan Blvd. north to N.Y. State Barge Canal, and Niagara River east to area boundary. - Gertrude G. Webster, Harry Kard, Jr., Stanley J. Maciejewski, Robert Rybczynski, A.J. Wright.

J. Sheridan Blvd. east and south to area boundary, west to Niagara River. - Harold D. Mitchell, Gregg Hammond, Arthur Freitag, Clarence Rote.

K. Grand Island: West of Stony Point Road, north of Huth and Long Roads to Niagara River. - Edward C. Ulrich, Alice E. Ulrich, Agnes Abrams.

L. Grand Island: Huth and Long Roads south to Whitehaven Road, and Stony Point Road west to Niagara River. - Mrs. J.A. Creighton.

M. Grand Island: East of Stony Point Road and north of Whitehaven Road to Niagara River. - Harold Freund.

N. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Road, Baseline Road west to Niagara River. - Paul Benham, Mary Benham.

O. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Road, Baseline Road east to Niagara River. - David M. Bigelow.

P. Grand Island: Love Road south to Spaulding Road, from east branch to west branch of Niagara River. - Walter Klabunde, Harriette Klabunde, Philip K. Klabunde.

Q. Grand Island: South of Spaulding Road, all of Beaver Island State Park. - Frances M. Rew, Frances H. Rathbun.

Species Recorded: Figures indicate the number of birds seen: letters indicate territories where birds were seen.

Gr. Blue Heron	2 (M,N)	White-w. Scoter	2 (B)
Mallard	570	Surf Scoter	2 (B)
Black Duck	913	Common Scoter	1 (D)
Gadwall	6 (Q)	Hooded Merganser	3 (D,P)
Pintail	33	Common Merganser	4748
American Widgeon	139	Red-br. Merganser	43
Shoveler	1 (Q)	Sharp-sh. Hawk	1 (H)
Wood Duck	1 (J)	Red-tailed Hawk	31
Redhead	25	Rough-leg Hawk	1 (H)
Canvasback	3034	Marsh Hawk	1 (C)
Greater Scaup	1177	Sparrow Hawk	26
Common Goldeneye	1486	Ring-n. Pheasant	65
Bufflehead	160	Glaucous Gull	7 (A,J)
Oldsquaw	1 (D)	Iceland Gull	4 (A,F)

Gr. Black-b. Gull	147	Brown Thrasher	1 (M)
Herring Gull	32,000	Robin	3 (A,E,G)
Ring-b. Gull	3589	Golden-cr. Kinglet	16
Bonaparte's Gull	524	Cedar Waxwing	7
Mourning Dove	4 (C,J)	Northern Shrike	8
Screech Owl	4	Starling	30,000
Snowy Owl	2 (F,J)	House Sparrow	1373
Short-eared Owl	12	Red-w. Blackbird	8 (B,E,J)
Saw-whet Owl	1 (A)	Common Grackle	7 (J,K,P)
Belted Kingfisher	1 (B)	Brown-h. Cowbird	63
Yellow-sh. Flicker	6	Cardinal	52
Hairy Woodpecker	14	Pine Grosbeak	19 (A,C)
Downy Woodpecker	56	Common Redpoll	110 (C)
Blue Jay	85	Amer. Goldfinch	22
Common Crow	115	Slate-col. Junco	16
Black-c. Chickadee	191	Tree Sparrow	211
Tufted Titmouse	2 (J)	Song Sparrow	4 (B,G,K)
White-br. Nuthatch	18	Snow Bunting	83
Brown Creeper	3		
		TOTAL SPECIES	65

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS 81,260

Species seen in area during count period, but not on count day:  
Horned Grebe, Lesser Scaup, Dunlin, Black-headed Gull, Common Tern.

Comments: The total of 65 species makes a three-way tie for the third lowest in the last 19 Christmas Counts. During the first 18, however, no count produced as many as 65. The number of individuals was the third highest ever recorded. This high total must be attributed to the big counts of just two species - Herring Gulls and Starlings. In the two years with still greater individual totals, there were unusually large numbers of several species of gulls and ducks, as well as of Starlings.

The only species new to the count was the Shoveler. In addition, ten species were reported in numbers larger than or equal to the maximum in any previous Christmas Count: 6 Gadwalls (tie for highest), 139 American Widgeon (52 in 1962), 32,000 Herring Gulls (23,827 in 1963), 1 Saw-whet Owl (also 1 in 1960), 2 Tufted Titmice (tie for highest, 3rd time on count), 7 Grackles, 63 Cowbirds (38 in 1964), 52 Cardinals (51 in 1963), 19 Pine Grosbeaks (1 in 1933 and in 1957), and 110 Common Redpolls (one flock, 34 in 1946).

There were several other species or large numbers worthy of note: 570 Mallards (5th highest in the 37 years), 1 Wood Duck (5th time on the count), 160 Buffleheads (4th highest), 4748 Common Mergansers (5th highest), 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk (1st in 10 years), 147 Great Black-backed Gulls (4th highest), 3589 Ring-billed Gulls (4th highest), 12 Short-eared Owls (tie for 4th highest), 6 Flickers (2nd highest), 14 Hairy Woodpeckers (tie for 5th highest), 1 Brown Thrasher (4th time), 8 Northern Shrikes (tie for 3rd highest), 30,000 Starlings (2nd highest), 8 Red-winged Blackbirds (4th highest).

Some species were reported in considerably smaller numbers than usual: 3034 Canvasbacks (lowest in 9 years), 1 Oldsquaw (lowest ever), 1 Rough-legged Hawk (average about 6), 26 Sparrow Hawks (2nd lowest in 18 years),



115 Crows (4th lowest), 3 Brown Creepers (lowest since 1931), and 16 Slate-colored Juncos (tie for lowest in 20 years).

Birds recorded on a majority of the previous counts but not on this one include Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Cooper's Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Horned Lark, and Meadowlark. - Harold H. Axtell and Rachel Axtell, 405 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York.

NEW PROTHONOTARY MASTHEAD

The members of the B.O.S. Council and the staff of the Prothonotary wish to express their appreciation to Fred Hall, Director of the Buffalo Museum of Science, and to Harold Mitchell, co-author of Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region, for their generous permission to use the drawing of a Prothonotary Warbler, drawn by Mr. Hall for the cover of Mr. Mitchell's book, in the new Prothonotary masthead.

MESSAGE FROM THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

With the publication in 1965 of Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region, there is established a reference source or a basis for continued studies by those interested in the bird life of the area. A perusal of the book will reveal a number of possibilities for further research that may contribute toward a better knowledge of our avifauna. Members of the Society can also learn of subjects for investigation by reading again in The Prothonotary the reports and suggestions of former research committees (1953, 19:16-17; 1958, 24: 19-22; 1961, 27: 33-34; 1962, 28:35-37) and comparing these with the new book's material.

In the ever-changing picture of the region's avifauna there is continuing opportunity for discovery in aspects such as migration, abundance, distribution, ecology, behavior and taxonomy. For one example, the members' attention is called to the partial or complete lack of knowledge on breeding and distribution for certain species in the region as shown in the above-mentioned book. This committee will welcome any inquiries from members about research possibilities and is prepared to advise and assist them wherever possible.

Robert F. Andrle, Chairman  
Harold H. Axtell  
David M. Bigelow  
Joanna Burger  
Richard Brownstein  
Joseph Grzybowski

Walter Klabunde  
Whitney Mallam  
Harold D. Mitchell  
Frances M. Rew  
Edward L. Seeber  
Joseph F. Thill

December 21, 1965

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

February 23 - "Field Observations", Dr. Robert Stein, State University College  
Members are asked to turn in questions for March 9th meeting.

March 9 - Statistician's meeting. Dr. Harold Axtell, Dr. Robert Andrie,

March 23 - Discussion of proposed constitutional amendments, Mrs. Edward  
Ulrich, Chairman of Revision Committee, and members of the  
committee.  
Assignment of territories for April Bird Count.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

February 13 - Rochester Area. Leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ulrich (833-8896).  
Meet 7:30 A.M. University Plaza.

February 27 - Winter Feeding Stations and Shale Creek Nature Center.  
Leader, Mr. Thomas Bourne (NH9-3386). Meet corner of Long Ave.  
and South Lake in Hamburg at 8:30 A.M. Local leader to be  
announced. Meet University Plaza at 8:00 A.M.

March 12 - Niagara Loop. Leader, Mary Louise Emerson (885-0067).  
Meet 8:00 A.M. at Vermont Street entrance to Peace Bridge.

March 27 - Oak Orchard for geese. Leader, Harold Mitchell (633-8612).  
Meet 8:00 A.M. at University Plaza.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the  
following month to the Compiler: Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive,  
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086. (NT4-5128)

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301.





# THE PROTHONOTARY

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Number 2

## THE MONTH

The average temperature in January was 4.1 degrees below normal, and precipitation was nine-tenths of an inch above the mean. On the night of the 22nd-23rd 18.2 inches of snow fell, on top of 4 inches already on the ground. This was followed on the day and night of the 30th by an additional 16 inches accompanied and followed by gale winds, producing widespread spectacular consequences. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

January produced our first record of Boreal Chickadee for the current season. Evening Grosbeaks have finally become regular daily visitors at many feeding stations. All the reports of this species are from south of Buffalo, in accord with its usual wintering range in the B.O.S. study area. The many records of Pine Grosbeaks, on the other hand, are more generally distributed. Experienced feeding station proprietors in general report fewer birds this winter, especially fewer native sparrows of all the usual species, including Towhee and both kinds of Junco.- Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

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Vol. 32, No. 2 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Horned Grebe	Jan.	5	1 Chippawa, Ont.	Axtell
	"	6	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag, Rathbun
	"	6	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Freitag, Rathbun
	"	7	2 Fort Erie, Ont.	Webster, Wendlings
	"	9	1 Chippawa, Ont.	Rosches et al
Pied-b. Grebe	"	3	1 Belmont	Burtens
Double-cr. Cormor.	"	16	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rew, Rathbun
Great Blue Heron	"	1	2 Chautauqua Lake	Beal
	"	1	1 Belmont	Burtens
	"	4	1 Eden	Bourne
B.-cr. Night Heron	"	2	2 Bowmansville	Grzybowski
Canada Goose	"	3	20 Lyndonville	Smiths
Gadwall	"	1	2 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells
	"	1	7 Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew, Rathbun
	"	6	4 Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag, Rathbun
	"	9	3 Fort Erie, Ont.	Rosches et al
	"	9	17 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rosches et al
Pintail	"	1	25 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells
Amer. Widgeon	"	9	75 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rosches et al
Redhead	"	1	40 Upper Niagara River	Axtells
Ring-necked Duck	"	30	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew et al
Canvasback	"	1	3500 Upper Niagara River	Axtells
Lesser Scaup	"	5	2 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtell
Com. Goldeneye	"	1	3000 Upper Niagara River	Axtells
Hooded Merganser	"	6	2 Upper Niagara River	Freitag, Rathbun
Common Merganser	"	1	4000 Upper Niagara River	Axtells
	"	7	5300 Fort Erie-Queenston, Ont.	Webster, Wendlings
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	1-31	1 North Boston	Dodge
	"	1-31	1 Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	12,29	1 Caneadea	Burtens, Palmer
	"	15	1 Belfast	Burtens
	"	17	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	23	1 Sargent Drive, Snyder	Brownsteins
	"	28	1 Wellsville	Burtens
Cooper's Hawk	"	22	1 Caneadea	Burtens
	"	23,31	1 Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	29	1 Jamestown	Sundell, Kibler
	"	30	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
Rough-l. Hawk	"	1	1 Big Tree	Bourne
	"	2	1 North Boston	Dodge
	"	2	2 William St., Lancaster	Grzybowski et al
	"	2,9,16	1,2,2 Ontario Plain	Klabundes
	"	9	1 Ransom, Rd., Lancaster	Webster
	"	15	1 Akron	Webster
	"	20	1 Akron	Wendlings
	"	21	2 Sturgeon Pt., Evans	Bourne
	"	22	2 Elma	Danner
	"	22	1 Ontario Plain	Klabundes
	"	24	7 William St., Lancaster	Rybczynski, Kikta
Bald Eagle	"	29	1 Barcelona (adult)	Sundell, Kibler
Marsh Hawk	"	22	1 Grand Island	Benham
	"	22	1 Wilson	Klabundes
	"	30	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Turkey	"	1	3 Belmont	Burtens
American Coot	"	29	1 Dunkirk	Sundell, Kibler



Vol 32, No. 2 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Killdeer	Jan.	1	1 Cuba Lake	Rosches et al
	"	9	3 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Rathbun
	"	16	1 Napoli	Knox, Merritt
Common Snipe	Jan.	16	1 Napoli	Knox, Merritt
Dunlin	Jan.	1	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells et al
	Jan.	2	1 Prendergast Point	Sundell
(Bird shot by hunter, feathers sent to statisticians and filed with verification reports. Specimen reported shot from flock of about 12 similar birds.)				
Glaucous Gull	Jan.	1	1 Squaw Island	Axtells
	"	1	2 Queenston, Ont	Rew, Rathbun
	"	6	2 Lower Niagara River	Freitag, Rathbun
	"	13	1,1 Jamestown, Celeron	Beal
	"	22	1 Niagara Falls	McKales
Iceland Gull	"	1	1 Queenston, Ont.	Rew, Rathbun
	"	6	3 Lower Niagara River	Freitag, Rathbun
	"	9	2 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rosches et al
	"	16	3 Queenston, Ont.	Schaffner
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	"	1	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells et al
Bonaparte's Gull	"	9	75 Nia.Falls-Queenston, Ont.	Rosches et al
Common Tern	Jan.	5	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtell
Mourning Dove	Jan.	5	39 Elma	Kikta
	"	22	100 Marilla	Danner, Schafer
	"	29	43 Belmont	Burtons, Palmer
Barn Owl	"	28	1 Hamburg (died soon after)	Bourne
Snowy Owl	"	2	1 Buffalo Harbor	Grzybowski et al
	"	6	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	"	8	2 Boston	Dodge
	"	9	1 Niagara Falls	Rosches et al
	"	18	1 Times Beach, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	20	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	22	1 Boston	Rew
	"	29	1 Niagara Falls	Knox
Short-eared Owl	"	2	1 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Benham
	"	5,13,21	1,2,4 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	7	2 Grand Island	Webster, Wendlings
	"	9	7 Bedell Rd., Gr. Island	Rosches et al
	"	13-16	1-2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	15	4 Grand Island	McKales
	"	25,29	2,7 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	29-31	1-2 Lancaster	Grzybowskis
Belted Kingfisher	(many reports for the month)			
Yel.-sh. Flicker	(many reports for the month)			
Red-bel. Wdpkr.	"	22,29	1 Caneadea	Burtons, Palmer
Horned Lark	"	11,22	20,22 Elma	Danner
( <u>E.a.praticola</u> )	"	15	28 Akron	Webster
	"	28	20 Elma	Kikta
<u>Boreal Chickadee</u>	"	15,19,27	1 Ashville (f)	Sundell,
		15	1 Ashville (f)	Carlsons et al
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-31	4 Athol Springs	Beal, Sundell
	"	13-31	1 Lewiston	Csont
	"	15	1 Abino Hills, Ont.	Klabundes
	"	22	1 near Wilson	Letchworths
				Klabundes

Red-br. Nuthatch	Jan.	1-31	2-3	Springbrook (f)	Danner, Schafer
"	"	1-31	2	North Boston	Dodge
"	"	1-31	2	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	9	8	Allegany State Park	Rew, Rathbun
"	"	30	1	Fluvanna (f)	Sundell, Kibler
Carolina Wren	"	21	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
Robin				(many reports for the month)	
Hermit Thrush	Jan.	2	1	Beaver Island St. Pk.	Benham
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	Jan.	27,29	1	Belmont	Mrs. L. Burton, Palmer
	Jan.	31	1	Belmont	Burton
Cedar Waxwing	Jan.	6,18	15,16	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	16	15	Derby	Andrle et al
Northern Shrike	"	1,9	1,1	Ontario Plain	Klabundes
"	"	1-30	1-2	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	1-31	1	North Boston	Dodge
"	"	2	1	Amherst	McKales
"	"	2-22	1	Springbrook	Danner
"	"	8	1	Sargent Dr., Snyder	Brownsteins
"	"	9	1	Elko	Rew, Rathbun
"	"	10	1	Lake View	Bourne
"	"	15	1	Somerset	Axtells, Hess
"	"	21	1	Sturgeon Pt., Evans	Bourne
"	"	22	1	Grand Island	Benham
"	"	24	1	near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
"	"	25	2	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	"	29	1	Belfast	Burtions, Palmer
E. Meadowlark	"	1,30	9,1	Belmont	Burtions
"	"	5-29	5-20	Lancaster	Kikta et al
"	"	20	2	Orchard Park	Bourne
"	"	22	3	Porter	Klabundes
Red-w. Blackbird	"	1,5,8	1	Belmont (f)	Burtions
"	"	5	21	Lancaster	Kikta
"	"	15	45	Pt. Breeze, Orleans Co.	Axtells, Hess.
Common Grackle	"	1	1	Woodcrest Blvd.	Rew, Rathbun
"	"	1-16	1	Frewsburg	Sundell
"	"	9,15,23	1	Eggertsville	McKales
"	"	21	7	Elma	Danner
"	"	25	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1	2	Jamestown	Beal
"	"	1-31	10-26	Belmont (f)	Burtions
"	"	9-22	1-7	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	15	200	Dunnville Ont.	Rosches
"	"	15,23	1	Eggertsville	McKales
"	"	27	1	Hamburg	Andrle
Evening Grosbeak	"	1	17	Friendship	Rosches et al
"	"	1-31	8	Jamestown (f)	Sundell
"	"	2,23-30	1,1-16	Hamburg	Andrle
"	"	8-24	2	Springbrook	Danner
"	"	9	28	Dunkirk	Rew, Rathbun
"	"	9,29	1,17	Fluvanna (f)	Sundell, Kibler
"	"	10,15	25,30	Belmont	Burtions
"	"	10,20	8,50	Scio, Wellsville	Burtions
"	"	11-31	1-18	Belmont (f)	Burtions
"	"	13	4	North Boston	Dodge



Evening Grosbeak	Jan. 14,27	6,12	Ashville (f)	Sundell
	" 16	16	New Albion	Knox, Merritt et al
	" 19,26	5,14	Hamburg	Bourne
	" 22	100	Angelica	Burtons, Palmer
Purple Finch	" 1	1	Chippawa, Ont.	Klabundes
Pine Grosbeak	" 1,6,8,9	2,6,4,4	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 1,17,21	8,7,9	Belmont	Burtons, Palmer
	" 1	7	Dufferin Is., Ont.	Rew, Rathbun
	" 5	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	" 5	10	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtell
	" 6	10	Dufferin Is., Ont.	Freitag, Rathbun
	" 7	1	Queenston, Ont.	Webster, Wendlings
	" 9	2	Ellery Center	Sundell, Kibler
	" 9	4	Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Mitchell et al
	" 9	5	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rosches et al
	" 9	11	Allegany State Park	Rew, Rathbun
	" 10,15,16	4,10,7	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 15	4	Wilson Cemetery	Axtells, Hess
	" 16	4	Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Freitag
	" 20	10	Wellsville	Burtons, Palmer
	" 21	8	Ellery Center	Beal
	" 21	3	Forest Lawn	Wendlings
	" 22	5	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham
	" 22	12	Belmont	Burtons, Palmer
	" 22,25	5,2	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 29	28	Lake Erie State Park	Sundell, Kibler
Common Redpoll	" 1,14	4,12	Belmont, Wellsville	Burtons
	" 1,30	20,1	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 9	90	Ellery Center	Sundell, Kibler
	" 14	85	Orchard Park	Bourne
	" 15	40	Pt. Breeze, Orleans Co.	Axtells, Hess
	" 29	1	Lake Erie State Pk.	Sundell, Kibler
Pine Siskin	" 9	9	Dunkirk	Rew, Rathbun
	" 16	3	Newfane	Klabundes
	" 27	3	Hamburg	Bourne
Rufous-s. Towhee	" 25-31	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
<u>Oregon Junco</u>	" 26,30	1	Youngstown	H. Klabunde
	" 30	1	Youngstown	Grzybowski
Field Sparrow	" 25	3	Jamestown	Sundell
	" 29	2	Lake Erie State Park	Sundell, Kibler
White-cr. Sparrow	" 24	1	Hamburg	Bourne
White-thr. Sparrow	" 1-31	1	Sargent Drive, Snyder	Brownsteins
Song Sparrow	" 1	4	Buckhorn Is. State Pk.	Rew, Rathbun
	" 1-31	2-4	Belmont (f)	Burtons
	" 1-31	1	Springbrook	Schafer
Lapland Longspur	" 11	1	Elma	Danner, Schafer
	" 25	5	Warner Rd., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Snow Bunting	" 1	8	Queenston, Ont.	Rew, Rathbun
	" 12	4	Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
	" 17,22	300,500	Belmont	Burtons
	" 22	1	North Boston	Bourne
	" 25	30	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 28	150	Belmont	Burtons

Additional species observed during January 1966: Mallard, Black Duck, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Long-eared Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, House Sparrow, Cardinal, American Goldfinch, White-winged Crossbill, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow.

Total species recorded in January 1966: 101

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#### GENERAL NOTES

A Study of the Variation in Color of the Tufted Titmouse. - On October 28, 1965, the first Tufted Titmouse that I have seen at Hanford Bay during our 15 years' residence appeared at our feeders. Usually, just one individual was seen at a time, so it was impossible to determine how many were feeding. However, on November 5 four appeared at the feeders at one time.

While the four were together I noticed a variation of color. This variation caused me to make a very close study of the four birds. This was easy, as one of the feeders is only six feet from the dining room window. I not only studied them with the naked eye, but also used my 7x50 binoculars.

There seemed to be two pair. The one pair are bluish-gray on top of head, nape, shoulders, back, wings and tail. There is a faint olive cast on shoulders and wings which is only discernible through binoculars. The sides of the head, throat, breast and belly are grayish-white. There is a distinct rusty color extending from under the wings back over the flanks to the base of the tail. The frontal mark on the forehead to the base of the bill is jet-black.

The other two, when seen beside the first pair described, are slightly smaller. They are of about the same length, but their bodies are smaller in circumference. The bluish-gray color of upper parts is lighter and does not have an olive cast. The under parts are lighter, almost pure white. There is no rusty streak under the wings or on the flanks discernible with the naked eye, but when studied with binoculars at a distance of six to eight feet these areas have a faint yellow cast. The black frontal mark does not seem to be quite as wide as on the first pair.

Could this be a pair of adults and their young? - R.H. Hesselbart, Silver Creek, N.Y.



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESReport of the Twelfth Federation Waterfowl Count for Region 1, January 15-23

Most of the observations were made on the target date of January 16, 1966, when fog hid the waterfowl in many places in the early morning, but cleared sufficiently later on to see across the Niagara River. It was a problem to keep warm on this very cold day. Almost all of the smaller lakes and streams were frozen. The total of 19 species and 20,652 individuals was below average. More Canada Geese, Mallards and White-winged Scoters were recorded than on any previous Federation Waterfowl Count in Region #1, while Scaups and Red-breasted Mergansers were at new lows. Of the 877 unidentified ducks, 620 seen by the Klabundes on Lake Ontario may well have been Black Ducks. Stephen Eaton found no waterfowl on the Allegheny River.

Species Recorded: Figures in parentheses indicate territory numbers where the species was recorded in three or fewer territories.

Pied-billed Grebe	2 (10,13)	Greater Scaup	1218
Canada Goose	10 (14)	C. Goldeneye	3625
Mallard	1438	Bufflehead	60
Black Duck	1590	Oldsquaw	1489
Gadwall	1 (8)	King Eider	1 (8)
Pintail	38 (2,8)	White-winged Scoter	316 (2,6,8)
American Widgeon	32 (2,4,8)	Hooded Merganser	2 (4)
Wood Duck	1 (15)	Common Merganser	6924
Redhead	66 (2,4,8)	Red-br. Merganser	25 (4,5)
Canvasback	2937	Unidentified Ducks	877

Territories and Observers: Underlined names denote those responsible for the coverage of each territory.

1. Delaware Park and Forest Lawn - Arthur Freitag.
2. Niagara River, Buffalo to Goat Island - Edward Seeber, Harold D. Mitchell, Gregory Hammond.
3. Niagara River (American side), Gorge to Fort Niagara - Harold D. Mitchell, Edward L. Seeber, Gregory Hammond.
4. Niagara River (Canadian side), Ft. Erie to Niagara Falls, Ont. - Frances Rew, Frances Rathbun.
5. Niagara River (Canadian side), Gorge to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. - Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Ulrich, Marie and Margaret Wendling.
6. Lake Ontario, Ft. Niagara to Olcott - Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde.
7. Lake Ontario, Olcott to P. Breeze - Dr. and Mrs. Harold H. Axtell, Paul Hess
8. Grand Island - Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Benham.
9. Lake Erie, Buffalo to Irving - Robert F. Andrle, Thomas L. Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Dodge.
10. Lake Erie, Silver Creek to Pt. Gratiot - Richard Miga.
11. Chautauqua Lake area - Mrs. Russell Pillsbury et al.
12. Allegheny River - Dr. Stephen W. Eaton.

13. Allegany County area - Mr. and Mrs. Lou L. Burton.
14. Oak Orchard Swamp area - Oliver Meddaugh.
15. Private Pond, Williamsville - Marie and Margaret Wendling.

I thank all who took part in the Count for their assistance. -  
Harold D. Mitchell, 238 West Royal Parkway, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221.

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### POINT PELEE

by Edward C. Ulrich

Only through map study do most people become aware that the north shore of Lake Erie, at its extreme western end in Ontario, Canada, lies nearly 100 miles farther south than Buffalo, N.Y. This piece of land projects westward as a modified peninsula between Lake St. Claire on the north and Lake Erie on the south and terminates at the Detroit River. Point Pelee extends from the eastern base of this land mass as a spit of sand that points toward Pelee Island, 8½ miles to the south, the southernmost point in the Dominion of Canada. Farther along, South Bass Island and Kelly Island bridge the over-water area between this Canadian point and the mainland of the United States near Sandusky, Ohio.

On the mainland a gentle rise of land forms a divide, the northern slope draining the waters of northern Ohio and Indiana into Lake Erie, the southern slopes emptying their waters into the northern rim of the huge basin which forms the mighty Ohio-Mississippi drainage system.

At Point Pelee is the junction of the apexes of two funnels of migration, the one flaring north into Ontario and beyond, the other expanding into the great Mississippi flyway to the south. The southern influence so affects the climate that in Ontario, along the north shore of Lake Erie, we find one of the most northerly belts of the Carolinian Zone.

Point Pelee National Park now has under its authority a large part of that perfectly tapered triangle of land that forms Point Pelee. This park has at its base extensive marshes, of which more than half a mile is accessible by a boardwalk that gives dryshod passage for observing the many types of aquatic plant and animal life.

By contrast, the very tip slips its sandy slopes into the waters of Lake Erie. Beyond, the bodies of resting water birds betray miniature islands, as occasional slight offshore projections of sand rise above the lake surface. Sandy beaches form the shorelines that surround higher inner land levels. These are covered with the intermingling vegetation of the Carolinian and Transition types --- grasses, herbs, vines, shrubs and trees.

In the early part of the year, the sky often reflects the vagrant and sometimes turbulent moods of spring. The warmed prairie winds contact the cooler waters of the lake and rise quickly, bringing a quick drop in temperature and the resultant accumulation of moisture and high winds. On one such occasion of my experience, in only a few minutes pleasant warmth gave way to uncomfortable coolness. Activity among the waterfowl had preceded this change by several minutes. Strings of cormorants flew lakeward, low



over the water, and gulls rode high in the same direction over the land, quickly and abruptly losing altitude on partially closed wings, as they left the land to alight in offshore flocks. Finally, a Great Blue Heron, on soaring wings appeared above, and at almost the same spot as had the gulls, he, too, altered flight, and partially closing his wings, with pinions paralleling the body, slid and dropped almost vertically toward the ground.

At this point we became aware of the cause for this sudden movement among the birds. The ceiling quickly lowered, the horizon darkened, and massive black clouds sped lakeward under the advancing pressure of the oncoming high winds. Later reports told of tornado activities on the Michigan mainland. We had witnessed a mass movement of birds fleeing before a storm to seek shelter in less turbulent places.

The narrowness of the point, the surrounding water, the types and spacing of vegetation and ease of access to all points puts Point Pelee in a place almost beyond compare for bird observation between the Mississippi River and the Atlantic Seaboard. During the biannual migratory movements, the birds literally stream over and around the point. From the shore, the grasses, the shrubs, and the treetops, each avian traveller can choose its own habitat as he moves along under the stimulus of migration. The movements of the direct fliers, such as jays and woodpeckers, contrast with the drifting of species such as warblers and sparrows.

Dr. George M. Stirret, Chief Park Naturalist of the National Park Service, in his book Spring Birds of Point Pelee National Park, 1960, lists 279 authenticated species or recognized forms and 15 species or forms retained as hypothetical, a total of 294. A visitor will benefit greatly by reading this booklet as a prelude to his visit to the park.

On an April evening which preceded the day of the storm described above, an estimated 2,500 vehicles lined the shore to harvest part of the spring smelt run. Each vehicle carried two or more people, equipped with canvas strips, shovels and scoops, lanterns, seine nets, washtubs, garbage cans, and assorted containers. The netting required the work of two men, one of whom held a pivot on the shore while his partner, in shoulder-deep water, scribed an arc with the seine and closed a loop as he waded in the direction of the lake and back to shore. With the help of his partner and sometimes other aides, he formed a team which hauled in the seine and spilled the catch from the net onto the canvas, which had been spread on the beach close to the water. From here the fish were scooped into the waiting containers. At times a single haul would tax the combined efforts of four men, as they spread on the canvas the catch of smelt that weighted the filled seine. A newspaper report stated that a processing plant at nearby Leamington was processing one hundred tons of smelt per day at the time of this run.

There are major spring bird movements and major fall movements. Those in the spring are decidedly more spectacular and consequently draw more birders. These crowds tax local accommodations, so it is well to make reservations in advance. The park administration has provided well-maintained camping facilities for those who choose camping. The following motels are on Highway 3 at Leamington, Ontario: Manery Motel to the east; Sunset Motel to the west; and Colonial Motel. Dinner may be obtained at the Hay Loft Restaurant (A.A.A. and C.W.A.).



EDUCATION IN ORNITHOLOGY

A Regional Survey

Compiled by David M. Bigelow  
Curator of Education, Buffalo Museum of Science

From my own experience, I venture to say that there are very few communities in which more than ten or twelve reliable ornithologists may be found, whose observations are recorded and compiled with any degree of regularity. Certainly our readers will agree that the Buffalo area (the Niagara Frontier Region) is a notable exception. It may be characterized as a veritable "hotbed" of ornithology.

What makes it so? Obviously, the B.O.S. grapevine flourishes, and we get busy signals on "Dial-A-Bird" at midnight because so many share an active interest in the birdlife of this region. Our communities are alive with qualified ornithologists of every description. Some are skilled professionals; some are trained experts who have entered other fields, and some have amassed great stores of information simply through years of experience and in a constant brush with others engaged in some form of ornithological research.

Promising young amateurs are also developing in our midst, some of them ready for college and setting their sights upon careers for which a serious study of birds may be at least part of their training.

At the museum we are frequently called upon to provide vocational guidance, and to suggest plans for college study. To suppose that one studies birds simply to become an expert would be promulgating a common misconception, ignoring ecological precepts, and limiting the horizons for which such education is useful or necessary: parasitology, tropical medicine, U.S. Customs Service, meteorology, aerodynamics, and, of course, the teaching profession. Certainly, ornithology can be an important part of a college background even if it is only framed within a more general understanding of zoology.

The Editor has asked me to make a survey among institutions of our area in an attempt to give our readers some idea of the training which is offered in their curriculums. These are the opportunities within easy reach, important courses "laid out upon our doorstep".

N.Y. State Teachers College At Buffalo

Dr. Eckert, Chairman - Science Department (For further information about these courses, contact Mr. Edward Seeber, Associate Professor of Biology and Coordinator.)

ECOLOGY (Biology #401) - Required for secondary school biology teachers and offered at least once each year - usually in the spring. This course may also be given in the summer, depending upon student demand. It may be taken for graduate credit. (4 credit hours) Note: While this course includes a broad coverage of zoology, Mr. Seeber points out that much time is given to a study of birds and their environment.



ECONOMIC BIOLOGY and CONSERVATION (Biology #403) An elective offered every two years. Last scheduled for the spring of 1965 (3 credit hours).

FIELD BIOLOGY (Biology #409) - A general course, including field identifications of birds. Not open to majors. (3 credit hours)

ORNITHOLOGY (Biology #412) - Offered usually every 2 years. We have been advised that this course has again been scheduled for the spring of 1966. Meetings will be held on Saturday mornings, running to the end of May. The course is open to graduate students as well as undergraduates, but all interested people of the community may also enroll. (3 credit hours)

SUMMARY: Other opportunities for undergraduates and graduates include certain projects of a research nature. These can be arranged through Mr. Seeber. The Science Department has established a well-rounded curriculum and is in the process of examining other areas for further development. Those desiring to register may do so at the Admissions Office.

State University College at Fredonia, N.Y.

Dr. Willard F. Stanley, Science Department. For further information, contact Dr. Allen H. Benton, Department of Biology.

FIELD BIOLOGY II (Biology #318) - This course is taught by Dr. Benton during the Spring Semester. While there are several other areas of study in the biology curriculum, our attention is focused upon this particular class because more than half of the time is devoted to ornithology.

"At present our biology offerings in the extension program are very limited," Dr. Benton told me in his letter. However, he also indicated that the college would seriously consider an evening course for the general public if a sufficient number of residents demand such an opportunity. (I had occasion to visit the splendid facilities of Dr. Benton's department at a recent meeting of the Lake Erie Bird Club, and was impressed with such a perfect setting for his endeavors.)

Note: Our readers will be pleased to learn that a revised second edition of Field Biology and Ecology by Allen H. Benton and William E. Werner, Jr., has just been published by McGraw-Hill (January 1966). It retails at about \$8.50 and our own region serves as a background for much of this important textbook.

Houghton College, Houghton, N.Y.

This beautiful college has become a staunch ally of conservationists in keeping close watch over our interests at Moss Lake for the The Nature Conservancy. On-campus nature trails are a splendid feature.

Dean Arthur W. Lynip has described a section in the Houghton curriculum as follows: "We have listed a class in ORNITHOLOGY which includes classification, structure, migration, colorations, and nesting habits of birds." Special attention is given to "identification of birds by song, plumage, and habits; field study." This course has usually been offered during the Summer Session for 2 semester hours of credit. It will again be scheduled for June in 1966, provided a sufficient number of students show an interest at registration.

"In addition, we offer from September until February a course entitled ANIMAL ECOLOGY, which is described as 'Characteristics of the biological and physical environment of animal groups...Interactions between environment and animals' --- studied in the laboratory and through field observations. Obviously, this course gives some attention to bird life as an important part of the wildlife community."

A course in FIELD ZOOLOGY (4 credit hours) is also included: "Taxonomy, along with theories of phylogenetic relationships; territorial mating, migratory, and locomotor behavior and occurrence of certain vertebrates (particularly mammals, birds, and amphibians) and certain invertebrates (particularly insects and fresh water forms). This course is offered from February until June."

Dr. George Moreland is the authority in ornithology at Houghton College and will retire at the end of this year. He would be delighted to correspond with others relating to ornithology this area.

St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N.Y.

Dr. Kenneth E. Anderson, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences

In a complete listing of 20 course of instruction on the undergraduate level in biology, Dr. Stephen W. Eaton has put a check mark alongside one course in particular:

ECOLOGY (Biology #412) - An evaluation of the fundamental interrelations between organism(s) and environment. Field trips are used to illustrate these phenomena. Prerequisites - Biology 203, 204. Dr. Richard C. Bothner conducts these studies. (3 credit hours)

The current bulletin of St. Bonaventure University lists 20 graduate courses in Natural History. These are taught in a two-year cycle and include:

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR (#515) - A study of the biology of Animal Behavior using protozoa, turbellarian, flatworm, insects, fish, and birds as subjects. The ethological approach is used to demonstrate particularly species' specific behaviour. This course will be offered in September, 1966. (3 credit hours)

VERTEBRATE SYSTEMATICS II (#522) - A detailed study of the taxonomy, life histories, and distribution of birds and mammals. This course will be offered in February, 1966. (3 credit hours)

AVIAN BIOLOGY (#530) - A study of the biology of birds. This course will not be offered again until February, 1967. (3 credit hours)

Buffalo Museum of Science, Humboldt Park, Buffalo, N.Y.

(Department of Education - Phone TX6-5200)

The study of birds is provided by the Junior Education Division in addition to evening courses offered in the Adult Education Division.



An awareness of nature and a curiosity in birds is awakened at a very early age - perhaps by the robin's nest on the back porch or a gathering of Purple Martins on a wire. It is here that many young people discover the fascination of birding beyond their neighbors' yard and into the feverish pursuit of expanding life lists. Surely, there can be no better time to encourage this interest, and under proper guidance, these are the promising ornithologists of tomorrow.

THE BIRDS is a serious course in bird study conducted by Mrs. Gloria Clements for boys and girls through senior year in high school. For beginners the emphasis will be upon identification. More experienced members will be given instruction in the ecology of birds. Mounted museum specimens are used, along with color films, and sound recordings.

Meetings of this junior group are held every Thursday (4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.), starting in October and continuing through April, with several field trips planned.

Adult evening courses are offered in many fields of study, on a three-semester schedule (Fall, Winter, Spring). These classes meet regularly each week, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.) for a period of 10 weeks in a semester. Upon satisfactory completion of a course, students receive a certificate authorized by the Buffalo Board of Education.

#### FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF BIRDS (S-102)

The instructor for this adult group is Miss Frances M. Rew, a leading ornithologist in our region. She has held a number of offices in the Buffalo Audubon Society, is a member of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs, and is the most recent past president of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

This course is intended for beginners as well as for those students with some experience in field birding. Studies this semester will focus upon the field identification of winter birds in the Niagara Frontier Region. Six lectures cover the classification of birds, notes on migration, habitat, and field marks. Four or five field trips will also be arranged as part of this course. Registration is limited to twenty. (Fee - \$8.50)

Officials representing biology departments at Alfred University, Niagara University and the University of Buffalo were reached and provided the information that no similar courses are offered at this time. Dr. Ross at Alfred University advised me that there had been practically no response to an ornithology course when it was offered in the past. The University of Buffalo indicated that field ecology and ornithology will be considered in the near future, but as yet they are not included in the curriculum.

PROPOSED MAJOR CHANGES IN THE B.O.S. CONSTITUTION

(To be discussed at the March 23 meeting of the B.O.S.)

1. Article II. Section 3, "Corresponding Members," becomes Section 7, with the addition of a third sentence: "This class of membership may include those former members who do not live in the territory of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, but who wish to be associated with the Society."
2. Article VI. Section 8, "Statisticians." Add another sentence: "To assist them in the preparation of the records, the statisticians shall recommend a member to be appointed by the Council for Compiler."
3. Article IX, "Duties of Council." Section 2. A third section is added: "In this connection, the Council may request the presence of the Editor of the Prothonotary or the Chairman of the Refuge Committee."
4. Article XI. A third section is added: "A quorum shall consist of 14 dues-paying members or 10 per cent of the dues-paying members, whichever is the smaller number."
5. Article XIII. A new article.

Section 1. Honorary Members shall be exempt from dues.

Section 2. Dues for Corresponding Members shall be \$2.00.

Section 3. Dues for all other members shall be \$4.00 per year, except that dues for second and succeeding members of the same household shall be \$2.50.

Section 4. All members shall receive a subscription to the Society's regular publication. In cases where more than one member is in the same household, only one copy will be mailed.

Section 5. Members joining after April 1 shall pay one-half the annual dues for that year.

Section 6. Dues are payable at the start of the fiscal year at the annual meeting.

6. Article XV. A second section is added: "A motion to amend the Constitution shall be proposed at one meeting, and tabled for further discussion."

NEW MEMBERS

The Buffalo Ornithological Society welcomes the following new members in the categories indicated:

Associate: Mrs. Harold Dodge, Hamburg, N.Y.  
Robert Rybczynski, Buffalo, N.Y.  
Mrs. Harry Schafer, Springbrook, N.Y.  
Mrs. Kenneth Swanson, Greenhurst, N.Y.  
Gustave J. Yaki, Niagara Falls, Ontario  
Donald F. Clark, Kenmore, N.Y.

Corresponding: Mrs. Russell Pillsbury, Jamestown, N.Y.



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

March 9 - Statistician's meeting. Dr. Harold Axtell, Dr. Robert Andrle, Joseph Grzybowski.

March 23 - Discussion of proposed constitutional amendments, Mrs. Edward Ulrich, Chairman of Revision Committee, and members of the committee.

Assignment of territories for April Bird Count.

April 13 - "Big Bend Country", an illustrated talk by Norwood C. Hazard, Curator of Photography, Buffalo Museum of Science.

April 27 - Symposium: Field Techniques of Nest Finding - Dr. Harold Axtell, David M. Bigelow, Carl Mrozek.

Bird Nest Quiz conducted by Anna Mae Bacon.

Report of plans for Breeding Bird Census at B.O.S. Sanctuary and Shale Creek Nature Center - Walter Klabunde and David M. Bigelow.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

March 12 - Niagara Loop. Leader, Mary Louise Emerson (885-0067). Meet 8:00 A.M. at Vermont Street entrance to Peace Bridge.

March 27 - Oak Orchard for geese. Leader, Harold Mitchell (633-8612). Meet 8:00 A.M. at University Plaza.

April 17 - April Bird Count. For assignment of territories contact leader, Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, N.Y. 14217 (877-7257).

April 24 - Hawk Count - south shore of Lake Erie. For assignment of territories, contact leader, Edward Seeber, 427 Connecticut Street, Buffalo, N.Y. (833-7366).

April 27 - B.O.S. Sanctuary and Owl Prowl. Leaders Walter and Harriette Klabunde (PL4-4424). Meet 7:00 p.m. at entrance to B.O.S. Sanctuary, Love Road, Grand Island, N.Y.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086. (NT4-5128)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301.





32  
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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 32

March 1966

Number 3

## THE MONTH

The average temperature in February was 0.8 degrees above the mean, and precipitation was .61 inches below normal. (Data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) Worthy of special note was the Saw-whet Owl heard calling in Hamburg, the eleven Whistling Swans seen repeatedly at and near that same village, most frequently in fields just east of it, and the Red-throated Loon which was found grounded but still alive on the snow in a field near Springville.

It seems pertinent to record here that in February Richard C. Rosche moved to Bernardsville, New Jersey. Mr. Rosche's important contributions to ornithology in the Niagara Frontier Region are diverse and numerous. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

*Red-thr. Loon	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>2</u>	1 near Springville	Andrle, Bacons
(bird brought in by Dr. Cairn and later released in Niagara River)				et al
Horned Grebe	Feb.	5	1 Caneadea	Burtens
Pied-billed Grebe	"	23	1 Fillmore	Burtens

Vol. 32, No. 3 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Whistling Swan	Feb.12-15,18	11	Hamburg	Dodges et al
"	" 16	10	Hamburg	Csont
"	" 28	11	over Hamburg	Andrles
"	" 28	11	Hamburg	Dodges
Canada Goose	" 28F	15	over Athol Springs	Csont
"	" 28F	11	over Eden	Bourne
Gadwall	" 12	2	Niagara Falls	Benham
"	" 21	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
Redhead	Feb. 11	250	Niagara Falls	Burger
"	" 12	110	Chippawa, Ont.	Benham
"	" 26	200	Lower Niagara River	Benham
Ring-necked Duck	" 22	1	West Niagara River	Andrle, Thill
Greater Scaup	" 21	1000	Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
Oldsquaw	" 21	400	Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
"	" 26	1000	Lower Niagara River	Benham
White-w. Scoter	" 22	130	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
"	" 22	55	Port Weller, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
Hooded Merganser	" 12,26	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham
"	" 13	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag
"	" 22	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
Common Merganser	" 17	1500	Grand Island	Freitag
Sharp-sh. Hawk	" 5	1	Caneadea	Burtons
"	" 11	1	Niagara Falls	Burger
"	" 18,23	1	North Boston	Dodges
"	" 19,22	1	Belmont (f)	Burtons
"	" 23	1	Belfast	Burtons
Cooper's Hawk	" 1,2,6	1	Belmont (f)	Burtons
"	" 7,10	1	Belmont (f)	Burtons
"	" 7	1	North Boston	Dodges
"	" 21	1	Angola	Bourne
"	" 27	1	Jamestown	Beal
*Red-sh. Hawk	" 23F	1	East Aurora	Kikta
Rough-l. Hawk	" 2	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	" 7,8	2,1	Marilla	Schafer, Danner
"	" 8,12	2,1	Elma	Schafer, Danner
"	" 12	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	" 19	8	Lancaster	Kikta
"	" 23	1	Belmont	Burtons
Bald Eagle	" 20	1	Navy Island, Ont. (adult)	Thills
"	" 22	1	Navy Island, Ont.	Benham
"	" 24	1	Navy Island, Ont.	Webster
"	" 27	1	Navy Island, Ont. (immature)	Thills
Marsh Hawk	" 17	1	Lake View	Bourne
"	" 26	1	Wainfleet Bog, Ont.	Andrle, Booth
Ruffed Grouse	" 22	1	Long Beach Woods, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
Turkey	" 10	16	Wellsville	Burtons
Glaucous Gull	" 7,8	5,2	Squaw Island	Andrle et al
"	" 21	1	Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
Iceland Gull	" 7	1	Squaw Island	Andrle et al
Snowy Owl	" 8	1	Batavia	Buckland
"	" 16	1	Boston	Csont
"	" 18	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville



Vol. 32, No. 3 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Short-eared Owl	Feb. 1,4,6	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
	" 4	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	" 8	1	Brant	Danner
*Saw-whet Owl	" 12	1	Hamburg	Bourne
Mourning Dove	" 13	42	Belfast	Burtions, Palmer
(maximum count for the month)				
Belted Kingfisher	Feb. 1-28	1-2	Belmont	Olmstead
	" 2	1	Scio	Burtions
	" 5	1,1	Caneadea, Fillmore	Burtions
	" 19	1,1	Friendship, Belfast	Burtions, et al
Yel.-sh. Flicker	" 2	1	Hamburg	Andrle
	" 8	1	Orchard Park	Bourne
	" 12,27	1,1	Bowmansville, Lancaster	Grzybowski
Red-bel. Wdpkr.	" 5	2	Caneadea	Burtions, Hale
	" 6	1	<u>Taylor Hollow</u>	Grzybowski
	" 26	1	Batavia	Buckland
Horned Lark	" 15	4	North Boston	Bourne
*( <u>E.a. alpestris</u> )	" 17	1	South Dayton	Beal
	" 26	1	Wolcottsville	Wendlings
Horned Lark	" 15	45	North Boston	Bourne
( <u>E.a. praticola</u> )	" 19,26	142,74	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 28	200	Wellsville	Burtions
(maximum counts for the month)				
Tufted Titmouse	Feb. 1-28	4	Athol Springs	Csont
	" 11	1	Kenmore (f)	Webster
Red-br. Nuthatch	" 1-28	2-3	Springbrook (f)	Danner
	" 1-28	1	Alfred (f)	Klingensmith et al
	" 6	2	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 23,25	1	Fluvanna	Beal
*Mockingbird	" 1-5	1	Frewsburg (f)	Sundell, Gulvins
	" 5	1	Queenston, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Robin	" 5,7	1	Springbrook	Schafer
	" 9	1	North Boston	Dodges
	" 15	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	" 19	1	Harlem Road, Snyder	Grzybowski
	" 19-23	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
	" 28F	3	over Evans	Brownstein
Cedar Waxwing	" 11	75	Hamburg	Bourne
	" 24,27	15,25	Lyndonville	Smiths
(maximum counts for the month)				
Northern Shrike	Feb. 1-6	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	" 5	2	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 12	1	Carlton, Orleans Co.	Grzybowski et al
	" 18,23,26	1	North Boston	Dodges
	" 26	1	Elma	Kikta
	" 27	1	Marilla	Danner
	" 27	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 27	1	Springbrook	Schafer
E. Meadowlark	" 16	4	Lancaster	Kikta
Red-w. Blackbird	" 12,18	1,1	Athol Springs	Csont
	" 13-20	2	Sargent Drive, Snyder	Brownstein
	" 19	1	Fluvanna (f)	Sundell et al
	" 28F	2	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 28F	4	over Evans	Brownstein
Common Grackle	" 11	12	Wellsville	Burtions

Vol. 32, No. 3 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Common Grackle	Feb.	12	1	Grand Island	Mitchell
	"	19	50	Elma	Danner
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1-28	6-12	Belmont (f)	Burtons
	"	1-28	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
	"	6-28	1-7	Jamestown (f)	Sundell
Evening Grosbeak	"	1-28	8-40	Hamburg (f)	Andrles
	"	1-28	8-50	Belmont (f)	Burtons
	"	1-28	1-25	Belmont (f)	Olmstead
	"	1-28	1-60	Jamestown (f)	Sundell
	"	1-28	1-75	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	2	100	Wellsville	Burtons
	"	6,24	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	7,15	1,130	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	12	4	Jamestown	Beal
	"	26	40	South Wales	Webster
	"	27	22	Hamburg	Bourne et al
Purple Finch	"	5-28	1	Belmont (f)	Olmstead
	"	12	1	Springbrook (dead)	Schafer
	"	24	1	Wellsville	Burtons
	"	25	1	Hamburg	Bourne
Pine Grosbeak	"	6,24	2,3	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	7	30	Belmont	Olmstead
	"	7,12	12,3	Belmont	Burtons
	"	7,24	6,15	Wellsville	Burtons
	"	18	12	Angelica	Burtons
	"	19	50	Phillips Creek	Klingensmith et al
	"	19	26	Lake Erie State Park	Sundell et al
	"	20	2	Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Kikta
Common Redpoll	"	1	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	5	20	Tonawanda	Grzybowski
	"	6,8	44,10	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	15	2	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	20	4	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	21,25	12	Tonawanda	Rathbun
	"	22	34	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
	"	26	14	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Andrle, Booth
Pine Siskin	"	7	2	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
White-w. Crossbill	"	13	7	Belmont	Burtons
Rufous-s. Towhee	"	1-5	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
White-thr. Sparrow	"	1-28	1	Sargent Drive, Snyder	Brownstein
Song Sparrow	"	1-28	4	Belmont (f)	Olmstead
	"	9	1	Derby	Bourne
	"	18	1	Springbrook	Danner
Lapland Longspur	"	2	1	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
Snow Bunting	"	5	3	near Falconer	Sundell, Gulvins
	"	6,12	25,250	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	7	150	Wellsville	Burtons
	"	10	15	East Eden	Bourne
	"	19	250	Friendship	Burtons
	"	19	140	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	23	6	Angelica	Olmstead
	"	27	250	Boston	Bourne et al

Species and subspecies previously recorded: 104\*  
 Additional species and subspecies recorded in this issue: 5  
 Total for 1966: 109

\* See note, page 39.



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

B.O.S. Trip to Hamlin Beach State Park - February 13, 1966

In one of his many talks before the B.O.S., Clark Beardslee once commented that the lack of bird sightings on some census days is just as significant as is a big list or even a normal one on other days. This may well have been illustrated on our February 13 trip to Hamlin State Park on Lake Ontario.

On that day an east wind and a heavy cloud cover with a low ceiling gave indications of an approaching storm, with rain changing to snow. The trip across the plains country from Bergen to the park proved negative. In an area that usually has Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, and Longspurs, there were none. Hawks also were scarce. We saw one Red-tailed Hawk and one Sparrow Hawk. At the time of our arrival at the park there was a high, rough wind, accompanied by precipitation that later turned into snow. A two-hour census of that area produced about 6 Ring-billed Gulls, 10 Common Crows, a dozen or more Chickadees, 2 Blue Jays, 1 Junco, 8 Tree Sparrows and 5 Pine Grosbeaks.

High onshore waves precluded any good observations either in the park or on our way home, as we stopped at several dead-end roads along the lake shore. For our efforts we had 1 Black Duck, 16 American Goldeneye and a few more gulls.

A sighting of four groups of land birds added 2 more Blue Jays and 7 Horned Larks (E.a. praticola), several of which were in song. Only by the closest observation could we distinguish these birds, so closely did the bedraggled specimens blend with the sodden landscape.

The land birds moved away and eluded observation, and over the water the pelagic birds sought more favorable elements away from the high winds and storm over the lake.

Why were they so elusive? Where did they go? Why didn't they feed more openly? Is food harder to obtain at such a time?

These are some of the many unanswered questions from our trip, and these are questions upon which Clark speculated when he stated, "The lack of birds on certain days is just as significant an observation as is a large count."

Edward C. Ulrich  
193 LaSalle Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y.

Each leader of a B.O.S. field trip to be held during 1966 is requested to submit a short write-up about the trip suitable for publication in the Prothonotary. Such a write-up should be sent to the Editor within a week of the trip.

The January 30th trip on the Ontario Plain was cancelled due to the blizzard on that date. The above write-up is an account of the second scheduled B.O.S. trip for 1966.

RAPTOR TRAPPING IN THE NIAGARA PENINSULA

by Franklin H. Folemsbee

The following article is an updated summary of a project status report originally published in Ontario Bird Banding, 1(2): 10-16, a publication of the Ontario Bird Banding Association.

General Discussion

For the past two winter seasons, the author has conducted a modest raptor banding program in Welland County, Ontario, Canada. The purposes of this work were to: (1) test the effectiveness of the bal-chatri (or noose cage) system of trapping on local birds; (2) collect data and band resident and transient raptors in this area.

Readers desiring information on the bal-chatri system are referred to Berger and Meuller (1959) and with particular reference to the Red-tailed Hawk, Austing (1963). Despite minor trap problems and several obvious disadvantages of the system, reasonable success was achieved and plans are in order to continue this program.

A summary of all species of raptors trapped to this point of the study is shown in Table 1 (by Check-list order).

Table 1: Total Raptors Trapped and Banded

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total Processed</u>
Red-tailed Hawk	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Sparrow Hawk	44
Snowy Owl	2
Northern Shrike	3

The disadvantages of the bal-chatri are quite obvious and only little space should be devoted to elaboration. By general comparison, the large-scale banding of birds of prey is not possible with the bal-chatri. This is quite unfortunate, because for certain species, the noose cage is by far the most effective trapping device available to today's bander. Most birds, once captured on a noose cage, seldom are retrapped or repeat again on the same device. This again is an undesirable trait, and it therefore follows that the bal-chatri system is most effective when employed in conjunction with a planned raptor nestling banding program and/or other capturing technique(s) for the intended purpose of matching banding records.

For the purposes of this discussion, we have divided the species that we have captured into two categories: "strikers" and "catchers". Simply defined, a striker comes in low to the lure (in the trap) and attempts to "pick off" the prey on a swooping pass, while the catcher comes to the trap or trap area and perches on or near the trap during repeated efforts to capture the lure.



Table 2: Classifications of Attack

<u>Strikers</u>	<u>Catchers</u>
Red-tailed Hawk	Sparrow Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk	Snowy Owl
Rough-legged Hawk	Northern Shrike

It is appropriate at this point to note that despite repeated efforts, sometimes under apparently ideal conditions, no birds have been captured by presenting a trap to a flying individual. These presentations were made to birds assumed to be hunting while soaring, wind-hovering, or otherwise on the wing.

#### Red-tailed Hawk

In spite of the general wariness of this large Buteo, we found it comparatively easy to trap in winter, provided it was in a "trappable situation". It is necessary to define a trappable situation as an obviously hunting bird perched within easy view of the set trap, following a good trap presentation. Actually, we did not capture a bird outside of the above situation. Through necessity, less than optimum conditions did exist for some "drops" but these were usually not successful.

The ten Red-tails banded represent only two winter's effort toward this species. We also recorded four unsuccessful Red-tail "strikes". A strike is a pass by a raptor with an actual strike with the talons at the lure, with enough effort to visibly move the trap or to become temporarily held before escaping. Two Starlings were used as lures in all Red-tail work. On one occasion a Red-tail made a strike at a trap containing a meadow (or field) mouse as a lure. All Red-tail traps were weighted to a total gross weight range of between 30 and 36 ounces. This allowed the hawk to drag the traps for short distances and therefore to keep constant tension of the pulled-up slip-knot in the noose around the talon(s) or toes -- an extremely necessary feature of a successful capture.

#### Red-shouldered Hawk

This bird was captured using the previously discussed procedure as for Red-tails. The occurrence of a Red-shouldered Hawk (adult, female) on January 25, 1965, provided a rare winter record of this species in Welland County, as substantiated by the records of the Peninsula Field Naturalists Club and the Buffalo (N.Y.) Ornithological Society, Inc.

#### Rough-legged Hawk

One Rough-legged Hawk (subadult, male) has been captured, culminating an otherwise disappointing series of Rough-leg encounters during the past two seasons. Suffice it to say that Red-tail traps and procedures, with wide modifications, were not adequate for the productive capturing of Rough-legs. The one individual of this species was taken using a Snowy Owl type bal-chatri with two starlings as a lure.

At present, we are constructing several large, flat-topped, experimental traps that, hopefully, will produce better results when used with a small rodent as a lure.

Sparrow Hawk

This small and common falcon can be captured with almost ridiculous ease using the appropriate bal-chatri trap. A house mouse makes an excellent lure; however we have trapped most of our birds with a fresh-caught house sparrow. With a good trap presentation, response by the hawk was virtually instantaneous, and with the nooses in fine upright condition, a successful capture was assured with either lure.

The banding returns, foreign retraps and station repeats are the subject of further investigation into the local population dynamics of this species. Additionally, data from weights, measurements and individual plumage characteristics are being analyzed. Hopefully, these results will be published as they become quantitative and conclusive.

Snowy Owl

Initial efforts toward this species were unproductive until the traps were completely redesigned and the nooses enlarged. Many frustrating hours were spent watching Snowy Owls walking on top of, and around, ineffective traps before we built a trap that incorporated the features that we considered necessary for reasonable success.

It is our habit to use at least two traps per target Snowy Owl. Both traps are identical in design, except that we use a Rock Dove in one trap and two starlings in the other. Both traps are dropped reasonably close together, perhaps 30 to 40 feet. The reasoning behind this procedure is that the Rock Dove trap was usually the productive one for the actual capture, while the constant activity provided by the caged starlings kept the owl's attention focused in the same general direction. Snowy Owls, being somewhat lethargic by nature during the daylight hours, seem to quickly lose interest in the pigeon lure. Two starlings in a trap, however, keep the area in a constant turmoil, and, I believe, shorten considerably the response time of a Snowy Owl.

As evidenced by Hamerstrom (1962), Snowy Owl work requires infinite patience, for these large, powerful birds can give the bander many anxious hours as he waits for a response.

Northern Shrike

The three banded individuals of this species were the result of random encounters during travels in pursuit of other raptors in the district. All shrikes were taken on bal-chatris rigged for Sparrow Hawks, one with a house mouse and the other two with a white-footed mouse, as lures.

Of all raptors captured, only this species was handled with leather gloves for hand protection. The very sharp, strong bill and fierce aggressiveness of this distinctive Passerine, combined to make shrike banding a very memorable and sometimes painful experience.

Since we found available data on the Northern Shrike to be somewhat variable or, in other cases, completely lacking, we are hoping to focus more attention on the data collection and banding of this species in future years.



Miscellaneous

Identifications within the species were accomplished using the published works of Craighead and Craighead (1956), and Roberts (1955).

As a result of our hawk-banding experiences, we heartily recommend this exciting and engaging pastime to uninitiated banders. Systematic raptor banding, while providing all of the recognized objectives of bird banding, truly gives the bander a competitive sense as he matches his wits against a clever and elusive quarry.

LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists Union. 1957. Check-list of North American Birds, Fifth Edition. Port City Press, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland.
- Austing, G. Ronald. 1964. The World of the Red-tailed Hawk. J.B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and New York.
- Berger, D.D. and H. C. Meuller. 1959. "The Bal-Chatrri: A Trap for the Birds of Prey." Bird-Banding, 30: 18-26.
- Craighead, J.J. and F.C. Craighead, Jr. 1956. Hawks, Owls, and Wildlife. The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
- Hamerstrom, Frances. 1962. "Winter Visitors from the Far North." Audubon (U.S.A.), 64: 12-15.
- Roberts, T.S. 1955. A Manual for the Identification of the Birds of Minnesota and Neighboring States. The University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
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NEW BOOKS AT MUSEUM

During the past year the following books of interest to members of the B.O.S. were added to the Research Library of the Buffalo Museum of Science:

- Bull, John, Birds of the New York Area, Harper, 1964.
- Dorst, Jean, Migrations of Birds, Houghton-Mifflin, 1962
- Fisher, J. and Peterson, R.T., World of Birds, Doubleday, 1964.
- Grossman and Hamlet, Birds of Prey of the World, Potter, 1964.
- Kelley, Elizabeth Burroughs, John Burroughs - Naturalist, New York, 1959.
- Peterson, Roger Tory, Birds, Time, 1963.
- Thomson, A.L., ed., A New Dictionary of Birds, British Ornithologists' Union, 1964.
- Wetmore, Alexander, Song and Garden Birds of North America, National Geographic, 1964.
- Wetmore, Alexander, Water, Prey, and Game Birds of North America, National Geographic, 1965.

B.O.S. WILDLIFE REFUGE COMMITTEE REPORT - PART II

Copies of the map of the B.O.S. Wildlife Refuge (see page 38) will be made available for use in future nesting surveys. The drawing does not include the 700' by 30' entrance right of way from Love Road, as this would only reduce the size of the main section of the refuge in the available space without adding any useful details.

The numbers 1 - 13 indicate the distance from east to west and north to south in hundreds of feet around the fence line and are marked on the fence wire. These are to be used to designate any spot (nest) on the refuge. By showing first the east-west number, then the north-south number, the center of the pond would read (2.0-8.2). Using this decimal system it is possible to define any location within ten feet.

In the wooded area it may be more convenient to merely use whole numbers. Thus the site of the former "sugaring hut" could be designated as (3-10). To define any spot in the smaller area north of the main woods, the north-south distance should be prefixed by the letter N. Thus the natural pond would be located by (3-N4.5). Further, any spot on the right of way from Love Road would simply be indicated by N6 to N13. No east-west reference would be needed in this narrow 30-foot right of way.

By this method a properly described nest site could be readily found on succeeding visits and more complete nesting data obtained.

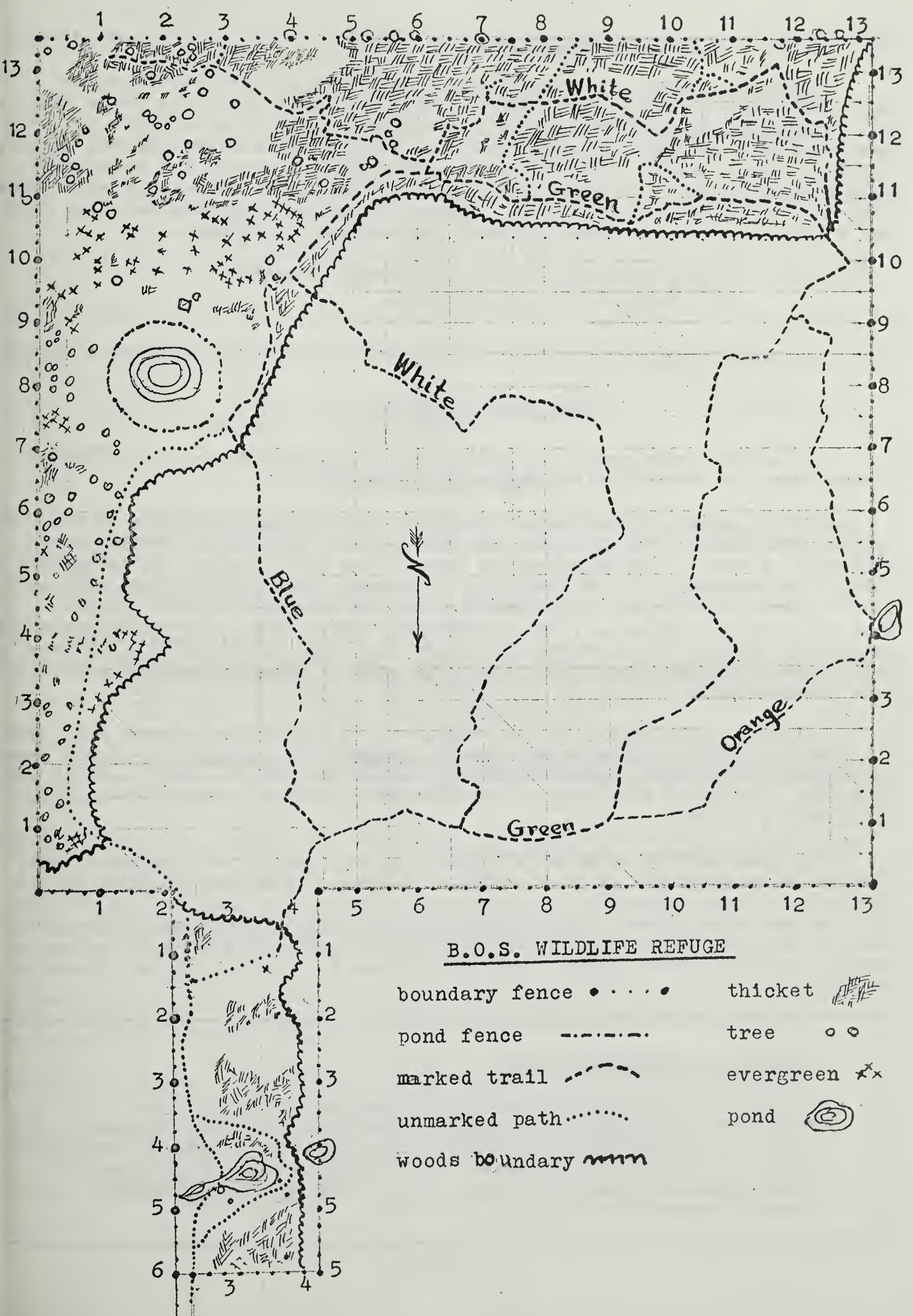
In addition to the two ponds mentioned above, a third pond, often referred to as Mitchell's Pond, is located just off the property at (13.5-4.2). Several areas in the main woods are under water most of the year, but none are permanent ponds. To further assist individuals in orienting themselves in the wooded area, a survey will be made this spring to locate on the map all these wet areas.

The trails, Green, Blue, White and Orange, shown on the map by dashed lines, are well marked, the first by light green painted "blaze" marks on trees and shrubs, the others by colored plastic tape. The dotted lines designate unmarked but cleared and well-worn paths. Some of the trails have wet areas during the winter and spring. Poison ivy grows over portions of the trails.

Plantings. Over 160 evergreens have been planted in the refuge. Almost 100 cedars, pines and spruces make up the Axel Heilborn Memorial Planting of 1963 and cover approximately an acre, just south of the pond. East and southeast of the pond, near the east fence area, some 30 pines have survived from an earlier planting by the Ulrichs and others. Their efforts are also demonstrated by the 19 pines and spruce trees in the (1.5-3.5) area, 8 spruce at (.8-.8) and 4 spruce at (3-N6) planted by Ray Frantz.

In 1963 multiflora roses were planted around the pond to make a hedge fence. About 110 of these plants have survived, but they need extensive pruning. To achieve the dense hedge needed around the pond, 250 - 300 multiflora roses will be planted this spring, and every effort will be made to assure rapid growth.







Feeding station. A feeding station has been maintained all winter just south of the pond and kept stocked with sunflower seeds and white millet. The following persons have helped to keep the feeders filled or have furnished seed or suet: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Benham, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ulrich, and Mrs. Milton Abrams. Suet has been available in a nearby oak tree and in some bushes. Several Chickadees have been at the feeder on every visit. Tree Sparrows have been seen many times. Downy Woodpeckers, nuthatches, Blue Jays and a Cardinal have also been frequent visitors at the feeders.

Walter Klabunde, Chairman - Refuge Committee  
4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, N.Y.

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### 1966 HAWK MIGRATION

As in the years past, the Buffalo Ornithological Society is planning a hawk count, to be held this year on April 24.

There is much to be learned about the spring hawk migration in the B.O.S. study area. The objective for such a group project is simply this: to trace the path of hawks migrating through the B.O.S. area. To accomplish this it is necessary to post parties at favorable locations, these parties to note the time of each hawk's passing and the direction of his flight. This data can be corollated, and in instances where only a few individuals of a particular species are recorded, it may be concluded with considerable certainty just what path the birds take. The area of primary interest is the Lake Ontario Plain.

Of secondary concern is the effect of ice conditions on Lake Erie upon the distance from the lake at which hawks migrate. The time of the bird's passing, height in flight, specific weather conditions such as wind velocity and direction, estimated temperature and cloud cover, and the number of individuals should be noted.

To make such an endeavor a success it will have to be a group effort. This is an opportunity for the individual to make a real contribution to the knowledge of hawk migration. Working with a group, the individual's efforts will be more significant than when he makes a single observation by himself. Thus, I ask the members of the B.O.S. and other interested birders for their support of this year's count. - Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, Lancaster, New York

#### ERRATA TO NOTEWORTHY RECORDS - Volume 32, page 18

A recount of the species recorded in January 1966, with the addition of Whistling Swan, Green-winged Teal, and Swamp Sparrow from the Jamestown Christmas Bird Count taken on January 1, brings the total number of species for that month to 104. Therefore: Total species recorded in January 1966: 101 should read Total species recorded in January 1966: 104.



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

- April 13 - "Big Bend Country", an illustrated talk by Norwood C. Hazard, Curator of Photography, Buffalo Museum of Science.
- April 27 - Symposium: "Field Techniques of Nest Finding" - Dr. Harold Axtell, David M. Bigelow, Carl Mrozek.  
Bird Nest Quiz conducted by Anna Mae Bacon.  
Report of plans for Breeding Bird Census at B.O.S. Sanctuary and Shale Creek Nature Center -Walter Klabunde and David M. Bigelow.
- May 11 - Study of Birds Eggs in Museum Collection. Moderator to be announced.
- May 25 - Program by the Research Committee, Dr. Robert Andrle, Chairman.
- June 4 - Annual B.O.S. Breakfast, Timber Trails, Eden, N.Y.. Details in April issue of the Prothonotary.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- April 17 - April Bird Count. For assignment of territories contact leader, Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, N.Y. 14217 (877-7257).
- April 24 - Hawk Count - south shore of Lake Erie. For assignment of territories, contact leader, Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086. (NT4-5128)
- April 27 - B.O.S. Sanctuary and Owl Prowl. Leaders Walter and Harriette Klabunde (PL4-4424). Meet 7:00 p.m. at entrance to B.O.S. Sanctuary, Love Road, Grand Island, N.Y.
- May 7 - Joint Field Trip with Allegany County Bird Club to Wellsville area. Meet 7:00 a.m. at the University Plaza. Leader, Lou Burton. Local leader, Marie Wendling (632-6625).
- May 15 - May Bird Count. For assignment of territories please contact the leader, Miss Marie Wendling, 87 Garrison Road, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221. (632-6625)
- May 22 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Whimbrels. Leader, Paul Benham (877-5202). Details to be announced.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086. (NT4-5128)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$1.50 per year, payable to the Treasurer.

EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301.





PLEASE DETACH AND PLACE WITH YOUR CURRENT ROSTER

Roster of the Buffalo Ornithological Society

Additions and Corrections

To bring your Roster up to date, please make the following additions and corrections:

New Members:

Booth, Virgil 66 West Cliff Drive West Seneca, N.Y. 14224	Assoc. '66  674-7115
Clark, Donald 176 West Girard Blvd. Kenmore, N.Y. 14217	Assoc. '66  876-2382
Dodge, Mrs. Harold A. Back Creek Road Hamburg, N.Y. 14075	Assoc. '66  649-4929
Dodge, Harold A. Back Creek Road Hamburg, N.Y. 14075	Assoc. '66  649-4929
Lortz, Flossie East Lake Road Wilson, N.Y. 14172	Corres. '65, Assoc. '66  751-6655
Partridge, Dr. Ray 109 Huntington Ave. Buffalo, N.Y. 14214	Assoc. '66  837-7672
Rybinski, Robert 510 South Ogden Street Buffalo, N.Y. 14206	Assoc. '65  824-4249
Salisbury, Daniel Marlatts Road Beaver Dams, Ontario, Canada	Corres. '65, Assoc. '66  416-227-1634
Stein, Dr. Robert C. 166 Kingsbury Lane Tonawanda, N.Y. 14150	Assoc. '66  833-1382
Yaki, Gustave J. 1717 Portage Road N. Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada	Assoc. '66  416-356-1089

New Corresponding Members:

Boyd, Mrs. Joan 255 Maple Ave. Cassadaga, N.Y. 14718	Corres. '65  595-3473
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Additions and Corrections to the B.O.S. Roster - Page 2

Galloway, Charles R. 28 Grove Street Silver Creek, N.Y. 14136	Corres. '65 934-2063
Hesselbart, R. H. Sunset Bay Silver Creek, N.Y. 14136	Corres. '65 934-2779
Pillsbury, Mrs. Russell R. D. #2 Jamestown, N.Y. 14701	Corres. '65 484-0859
Welch, Thomas Blanding Road Jamestown, N.Y. 14701	Corres. '65

Change in type of Membership:

Brockner, Mrs. Winston	Assoc. '46, Act. '47 Corres. '65
------------------------	-------------------------------------

Corrections in Roster:

Gryzbowski, Joseph  
9 Redlein Drive  
Lancaster, N.Y.

Praemassing, Eugenia and Kathryn  
Tel. no. 836-1618

Stains, Jacqueline M.  
3339 Whitehaven Road  
Grand Island, N.Y. 14072

Turner, Lena  
Tel. no. 836-1618

Wander, Alfred  
Orchard Park (not East Aurora)

Williams, Edward  
Nichols School  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14216

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

JUN 9 - 1966

Volume 32

April 1966

Number 4

## THE MONTH

Precipitation in March was 0.46 of an inch below the mean. The average temperature was 3.2 degrees above normal. The average of the first twenty-four days was exceptionally warm, reaching a record-breaking 78 on the 23rd, then was very cold throughout the last week, dropping to a record low of 11 degrees on the 27th. The ground was mostly bare except during the cold final week, when there was a snow cover of one to three inches. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) In the hill regions south of Buffalo, however, snow remained widespread and deep throughout the month.

The response of migrating birds to these conditions was much as one would expect. Many typically March and early-April migrants arrived a good deal earlier than usual. Although our field observers spent relatively few days checking major migration movements, fairly good diurnal flights were reported for March 3, 5, 13 and 18, and sudden increases of nocturnal migrants were noted March 18 and 20. Even during the abnormally cold last week, many early arrivals were discovered for the first time. Some of these may have arrived during the warm period and remained unobserved until after the weather turned cold.

A notable increase in the number and distribution of Bluebird reports above those of the past several spring seasons is gratifying. The Boreal Chickadee and the Eared Grebe are both of special interest. Undoubtedly the most unusual record is of Miss Burger's Broad-winged Hawk migrating over with other Buteos on the 18th. There is every reason for being extremely skeptical of any March record of this species in the northern states, and it was with this attitude that the Statisticians studied critically every aspect and detail of Miss Burger's verifying report. One of the most frequent errors made by field ornithologists,



even by experts, is calling adult Red-shoulders Broad-wings. After long study of the detailed report, however, it became obvious that the only reasonable decision was that the verifying write-up was more than adequate and was indeed very convincing. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year  
 F - indicates first record for the migration  
 L - indicates last record for the migration  
 (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Horned Grebe	Mar.	3F	1 Celeron	Pillsbury
	Mar.	13,20	1,2 Wehrle Drive Quarry	Grzybowski et al
* <u>Eared Grebe</u>	Mar.	13	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Rybczynski,
		14	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Burger, Brown-
				stein, et al
Pied-billed Grebe	Mar.	3F	1 Celeron	Beal
	Mar.	13	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Rybczynski et al
Great Blue Heron	Mar.	8	1 Celeron	Sundell
	"	22	10 near Cassadaga Lake	Pillsbury
	"	28	3 Belmont	Burtens
Whistling Swan	Mar.	10F	3 Chippawa, Ont.	Benham
	"	13	15 Oak Orchard GMA	McKales
	"	13	6 Dunkirk Harbor	Brownstein et al
	"	13,20	5,3 Nice Road, Newstead	Grzybowski et al
	"	14,20	2,52 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
	"	15	5 Nice Road, Newstead	Wendlings
	"	17	8 Tonawanda GMA	Freitags
	"	19	54 Oak Orchard GMA	Wendlings, Ruggles
	"	19,20	42,9 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	19,26	1,63 Cuba Lake	Burtens
	"	20	71 Oak Orchard GMA	McKales
	"	21,22	1 Wellsville	Burtens
	"	22	79 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	22,29	1,92 Wellsville, Cuba	Olmstead
	"	22,31	40 Oak Orchard GMA	Freitags
	"	25	100 Chautauqua Lake	Beal et al
	"	25,27	85,3 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	27	400 Chautauqua Lake	Elderkin
	"	27	84 Oak Orchard GMA	Mitchell et al
	"	29	363 Chautauqua Lake	Pillsbury
Canada Goose	Mar.	3	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	5	1358 Tonawanda GMA	Burger et al
	"	12	500 over Cuba	Burtens



Vol. 32, No. 4 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Canada Goose	Mar.	13	10178	Tonawanda GMA	Burger et al
	"	17	11000	Oak Orchard GMA	Freitags
	"	20	14000	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Benhams
	"	27	18880	Oak Orchard GMA	Mitchell et al
*Snow Goose	Mar.	23	50	over Batavia	Buckland
*Blue Goose	Mar.	20	2	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Benhams
	"	22	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Freitags
	"	23	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Emerson
	"	27	15	Shelby Sinks	Mitchell et al
Black Duck	"	3	188	Dunkirk Harbor	Brownstein
Gadwall	"	7	1	Niagara Falls	Webster, et al
	"	10	8	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benhams
	"	26	5	Kiantone	Sundell, Kibler
	"	30	5	Kiantone	Pillsbury
Pintail	"	5	650	Tonawanda GMA	Burger et al
	"	13	550	Tonawanda GMA	Burger et al
	"	22	1000	Oak Orchard GMA	Freitags
	"	27	1500	Oak Orchard GMA	Mitchell et al
Green-winged Teal	"	14	2	Kiantone	Pillsbury
	"	14	1	Tonawanda GMA	Grzybowski
*Blue-winged Teal	"	21	1	Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
	"	23	3	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	23	1	Hanover	Brownstein
Amer. Widgeon	"	27	100	Oak Orchard GMA	Mitchell et al
	"	29	50	Cuba	Olmstead
*Shoveler	Mar.	5	4	Tonawanda GMA	Burger et al
	Mar.	6	1	Tonawanda GMA	Grzybowski
	Mar.	13	2	Riverside	Elderkin
	"	14, 20	1, 2	Tonawanda GMA	Grzybowski et al
	"	16	1	Newstead	Wendlings
	"	23	2	Kiantone	Pillsbury
	"	24	2	East Eden Pond	Bourne
	"	31	2	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	31	2	Oak Orchard GMA	Webster, Karlak
*Wood Duck	"	13	3	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	19	2	Nice Road, Newstead	Brownstein
Redhead	"	15	119	Grand Island	Burger, Brownstein
Ring-necked Duck	"	3F	1	Celeron	Pillsbury
	"	4	1	Wehrle Drive Quarry	Grzybowski, Emersons
	"	27	40	Chautauqua Lake	Elderkin
	"	29	40	Chautauqua Lake	Pillsbury
Canvasback	"	29	650	Chautauqua Lake	Pillsbury
Lesser Scaup	"	3F	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Brownstein
	"	14	2	Kiantone	Pillsbury
*Ruddy Duck	Mar.	13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rybczynski et al
	Mar.	24	1	Silver Creek Reservoir	Webster
	"	27	12	Chautauqua Lake	Elderkin
	"	29	14	Chautauqua Lake	Pillsbury
Hooded Merganser	Mar.	3F	1	Celeron	Beal
	"	5	2	St. Catharines, Ont.	Brownstein
*Turkey Vulture	"	17	1	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	19	2	Oak Orchard GMA	Brownstein, Giarraus

Vol. 32, No. 4 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

*Goshawk	Mar.	13	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Rybczynski et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	Mar.	18F	5 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	19	1 over Hamburg	Andrles
Cooper's Hawk	"	3F	1 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	9	1 Belmont	Burtens
	"	13	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	13	1 Tonawanda GMA	Burger et al
	"	13	1 Sheridan	Brownstein et al
	"	18	9 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	19	1 Akron	Brownstein et al
	"	20	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Andrles
	"	23	2 over Silver Creek	Brownstein
Red-tailed Hawk	"	3F	4 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	18	63 South Shore Lake Erie	Burger
	"	23	32 over Silver Creek	Brownstein
Red-should. Hawk	"	2	2 Kiantone	Pillsbury
	"	18	61 South Shore Lake Erie	Burger
	"	23	19 over Silver Creek	Brownstein
*Broad-w. Hawk	Mar.	18	1 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
Rough-leg. Hawk	"	4	1 Batavia	Buckland
	"	4	1 near Bear Lake	Pillsbury
	"	10	1 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger, Brownstein
	"	10	1 Orchard Park	Bourne
	"	10	1 Elma	Danner, Schafer
	"	10	10 Tonawanda GMA	Freitag, Rathbun
	"	12	1 Tonawanda GMA	Emerson, et al.
	"	13	5 Tonawanda GMA	Burger et al
	"	15	1 Newstead	Wendlings
	"	17	2 Tonawanda GMA	Freitags
	"	18	2 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	18	1 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	18, 19	1, 1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	20	1 Sour Sprs. Rd., Alabama	Grzybowski, Benhams
	"	20	2 Newstead	Grzybowski, Benhams
	"	20	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	20	1 Clarence	McKales
	"	23	4 over Silver Creek	Brownstein
	"	26, 28	2, 2 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	27	5 Brunck Rd., Lancaster	Andrle, Coggeshall
	"	27	1 Derby	Andrles
	"	27	1 Wilson	McKales
	"	30	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Bald Eagle	"	4	1 Grand Island (adult)	Webster, Karlak
	"	6	1 Navy Island, Ont.	Freitag, Hess
(changing immature with a white tail and dark head)				
	Mar.	8	1 Navy Island, Ont. (imm.)	Emerson
	"	16	1 Langford (immature)	Bourne
Marsh Hawk	"	6F	2 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Benham
	"	7	1 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	23	9 Lyndonville	Smiths
Sparrow Hawk	"	23	25 over Silver Creek	Brownstein
*Bobwhite	"	27	9 Oak Orchard GMA	Wendlings et al



Vol. 32, No. 4 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Turkey	Mar.	3	9 Alma Hill	Burtens
American Coot	"	3	4 Dunkirk Harbor	Brownstein
	"	4	2 Dunkirk Harbor	Pillsbury
	"	23	2 Kiantone	Pillsbury
Killdeer	"	3F	3 South Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein
	"	5	3 near Bowmansville	Grzybowski
	"	5	1 Lancaster	Rybczynski et al
	"	5	1 Tonawanda GMA	Burger et al
*Amer. Woodcock	"	13	10 Cheektowaga	Kikta
	"	20	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	20	1 Elma	Csont, Nieschel
Common Snipe	"	22F	1 Bear Lake Outlet	Pillsbury
	"	23	2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Gr. Yellowlegs	"	19	1 Bay View	Bourne
	"	22	1 Tonawanda GMA	Freitags
*Pectoral Sandp.	"	27	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
Glaucous Gull	"	22	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
Snowy Owl	"	5	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtells
	"	15	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
Long-eared Owl	"	2	1 Wilson Cemetery	Webster
	"	27	1 Youngstown Cemetery	McKales
	"	27	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
Short-eared Owl	"	3,31	1,10 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	20	1 Love Rd., Grand Island	Webster, Walfe
Yel-sh. Flicker	"	4	2 Lake View	Bourne
Pileated Wdpkr.	"	13	1 Clarence	McKales
	"	27	1 Akron	Mitchell et al
Red-bel. Wdpkr.	"	2	1 Batavia	Webster et al
	"	5	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Burger et al
	"	12	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Benham
	"	20	1 near Tona.Indian Res.	Grzybowski, Benhams
	"	20	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Benhams
	"	23	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
*Red-headed Wdpkr.	"	15	1 Belmont	Olmstead
*Eastern Phoebe	"	21	1 Amherst	Webster
	"	24	1 Belmont	Olmstead
Horned Lark	"	1-31	1-10 Angelica	Olmstead
( <u>E.a. alpestris</u> )	"	27	18 Tonawanda GMA	Wendlings et al
*Tree Swallow	"	23	1 Kiantone	Pillsbury
	"	24	1 East Eden Pond	Bourne
*Purple Martin	Mar.	30	1 Depew	Grzybowski
<u>Boreal Chickadee</u>	"	6-20	1 Alfred	Klingensmith, Deverell
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-31	2-3 Athol Springs	Csont
	"	3	1 Evans	Brownstein, Burger
	"	4	2 Dunkirk	Pillsbury
	"	10	6 Sturgeon Pt., Evans	Burger, Brownstein
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	1-31	2-3 Elma	Danner
	"	1-31	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
*Brown Thrasher	"	5	1 near Thorold, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	24	1 Alfred (f)	Klingensmith et al
Robin	"	3	1 Alma Hill	Burtens

Vol. 32, No. 4 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Robin	Mar.	3	1 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	3	26 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	18	117 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
*Eastern Bluebird	"	1	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	9	1 Lake View	Bourne
	"	9,17,27	1,3,2 Wellsville	Burtons
	"	13	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	14	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	17	4 Somerset	Benham
	"	18	9 over Lake View	Brownstein, Clark
	"	18,20	4,2 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	20,25,27	1 Belmont	Burtons
	"	21-31	1-5 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	21	1 Busti	Pillsbury
	"	26	3 Jones Rd., Clarence	Freund
	"	27	1 Clarence	Mitchell et al
	"	27	4 Windmill Pt., Ont.	Letchworths
*Water Pipit	"	23	33 Allegany Rd., Hanover	Brownstein
	"	23	1 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	24	50 Belmont	Burtons
	"	24	25 Hanover Center	Webster
Northern Shrike	"	1,13	1,1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	5-31	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	13	1 Angola	Brownstein et al
	"	24	1 Eggertsville	McKales
	"	26	1 Grand Island	Benham
*Loggerhead Shrike	"	27	1 Brunck Rd., Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	27	1 Tonawanda GMA	Wendlings et al
	"	28,29	1 Belmont	Burtons
	"	31	2 near Tona.Indian Res.	Webster, Karlak
Starling	"	18	1398 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
E. Meadowlark	"	3	2 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	18	131 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
Red-w. Blackbird	"	3	81 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	3	6 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	13	1558 South Shore Lake Erie	Burger et al
	"	18	2694 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	26	1800 Riverside	Sundell, Kibler
*Rusty Blackbird	"	3	5 Jamestown Roost	Beal
	"	9	125 Jamestown Roost	Beal
	"	20	70 Tonawanda GMA	Grzybowski, Benhams
Common Grackle	"	2F	1 Lackawanna	Kikta
	"	3	40 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	18	408 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	3F	84 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
Evening Grosbeak	"	1-31	1-50 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	1-31	5-30 Frewsburg (f)	Gulvin
	"	1-31	30 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	1-31	1-45 Jamestown (f)	Sundells
	"	1-31	10-30 Hamburg (f)	Andrles
	"	13	12 Scio	Burtons
	"	13	5 Lyndonville	Smiths



Vol. 32, No. 4 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Evening Grosbeak	Mar.	14	1 over Silver Creek	Grzybowski
	"	17	1 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	25	3 North Boston	Dodges
Purple Finch	"	1-15	1 Belmont (f)	Olmstead
	"	20	1 Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	24-31	1 Belmont (f)	Olmstead
	"	29	1 Eden	Bourne
Pine Grosbeak	"	2	9 Alfred	Olmstead
	"	3	27 Andover	Burtens
	"	6	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	13	6 Oak Orchard, GMA	Burger et al
	"	18	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	27	3 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
Common Redpoll	"	3	19 Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Burger
	"	15	3 Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	27	1 Schwartz Rd., Lancaster	Andrle, Coggeshall
Pine Siskin	"	10	5 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	23	1 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Red Crossbill	"	9	20 near Chestnut Ridge Park	Csont
White-w. Crossbill	"	4	2 Jamestown	Pillsbury
	"	6	1 Youngstown Cemetery	Grzybowski, Benham
	"	13, 17	5, 2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	20	4 over Wehrle Dr. Quarry	Grzybowski, Benhams
	"	20	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
Rufous-s. Towhee	"	26-31	1-2 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	28	1 Ashland Ave., Buffalo	Emersons
	"	30	2 Lyndonville	Smiths
*Savannah Sparrow	"	26F	1 Cuba	Burtens
	"	26F	1 Jamestown	Beal
	"	26F	1 Falconer	Sundell, Kibler
	"	27	6 Elma-Lancaster	Andrle, Coggeshall
*Vesper Sparrow	"	25F	2 Belmont	Burtens
	"	26	3 Lancaster	Rybczynski et al
	"	26	2 Cuba	Burtens
Field Sparrow	"	29	3 Frewsburg	Beal
	"	29	1 Clymer	Pillsbury
	"	30	2 Kiantone	Pillsbury
White-thr. Sparrow	"	1-31	1 Sargent Drive, Snyder	Brownstein
*Fox Sparrow	"	12	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	18	1 Belmont	Burtens
Lapland Longspur	"	3	1 Boston	Bourne
	"	5	70 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	7, 9	8, 6 Elma	Danner, Schafer
Snow Bunting	"	2, 9	100, 6 Angelica	Olmstead
	"	3	65 Boston	Bourne
	"	7, 9	15, 45 Elma	Danner, Schafer
	"	13	3 Boston	Dodges
	"	21	2 Lancaster	Grzybowski

Species and subspecies previously recorded	109
Additional species and subspecies recorded in this issue:	27
Total for 1966:	136

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

B.O.S. Field Trip - February 27, 1966

The field trip held on February 27, 1966 was originally set up to cover Winter feeding stations in the Hamburg area. Normally, it would have been a relatively simple matter to select a number of such stations and be rewarded with a rather nice list of birds. Such was not the case this year. In preparation for the trip, perhaps fifteen feeders were contacted — with very discouraging results. It almost sounded like the plague; very few birds this year, and practically nothing out of the ordinary; even the House Sparrow appeared to be reduced in numbers. However, it was decided to visit some of the more promising feeders, and then go back in the country after bigger game.

Evening Grosbeaks were found at three stations only in limited numbers — a total of 22 for the trip. Although Goldfinches were perhaps more common than usual, Juncos were very scarce. No Tree Sparrows were recorded and the occasional Song Sparrow was not seen. A Red-bellied Woodpecker, a regular visitor at one station, had appeared there earlier in the day and was not expected back for some time.

Whistling Swans, reported first on February 12, were seen again on February 26 — but a careful search failed to reveal their presence on the 27th. A Snowy Owl, for some time a traffic stopper on the Zimmerman Road, could not be located. However, we did find a fine flock of at least 250 Snow Buntings in the fields to the south of the Boston Conservation Club. We looked for Canada Geese all day, but my first flock was not seen until February 28th.

Having been assured that the chances were fairly good on a Turkey, we passed up a scheduled stop or two and drove to the rather remote site. Considerable time was spent in following Turkey tracks through the woods in the snow. Although some of these large tracks were fairly fresh, the bird itself was not seen. Grouse tracks were also found here.

The list for the day totaled 18 species and subspecies of birds actually seen, with the number of individuals recorded at 470.

Thomas L. Bourne

Niagara Loop Field Trip - March 12, 1966

Only five birders gathered in the rain and fog at the Peace Bridge on March 12th for the scheduled trip over the Niagara Loop. Since the entrance to the Peace Bridge was barely discernible and the Niagara River was hidden from view by the heavy fog, those present voted to go to Oak Orchard.

In the Oak Orchard area we observed, through fog and mist, some



26 species among which were about 3000 geese, 1000 Pintails and 2 Ring-necked Ducks. A Meadowlark and two Robins gave us hope as to what we might expect later in the month.

Mary Louise Emerson

Oak Orchard Trip - March 27, 1966

On the morning of March 27 our six-car caravan first covered the Clarence and Newstead "Sink" areas, where we were pleased to find in the quarry pond at the east end of Wehrle Drive a flock of Ring-necked Ducks, a drake Wood Duck and a drake Green-winged Teal, some Mallards and Black Ducks. En route to the Nice Road "sinks" we saw many Song Sparrows, Red-wings, Common Grackles and a few Rusty Blackbirds. At Nice Road were many Pintails and American Widgeons, and a small flock of Canada Geese; we also saw a Pied-billed Grebe and several Common Goldeneye. We were disappointed at the lack of birds at Stage Road, but found at the Steiner Road "sinks" about 300 Canada Geese, plus one of our best finds of the day, three Common Snipe, standing out in relief against a background of snow.

En route to the swamp area we saw many Horned Larks and flocks of blackbirds, adding Meadowlarks and Brown-headed Cowbirds to our list, as well as Yellow-shafted Flickers and Mourning Doves. Arriving at the Tonawanda Game Management Area we found about 8,000 more Canada Geese and 42 Whistling Swans, many more Pintails and Widgeons, and a drake Blue-winged Teal. Later Dorst and Salisbury called our attention to a smaller Goose in this area with a white line conspicuous below the "black stocking" on the upper breast. This goose was not as small as the one seen last year, which may have been a Cackling Goose.

Later in the day we saw at least 11,000 more Canada Geese, plus fifteen Blue Geese at the Shelby "sinks" (Dorst and Salisbury estimated that there were 24 Blue Geese in all). We saw many Turkey Vultures, several Red-tailed Hawks, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a flock of Water Pipits (at Sour Springs Road). A number of Ring-billed Gulls were at rest in the fields, and 40 more Whistling Swans were seen at Stafford's Pond. We just missed seeing a flock of Bobwhites near the corncrib along the Albion Road, observed a few minutes previously by Al Reigle of the Conservation Department. However, we enjoyed the day, in spite of the somewhat chilly weather.

Harold D. Mitchell

As announced in the March Issue of the Prothonotary, each trip leader is requested to submit a short write-up to the editor within a week of the trip day. The preceding three write-ups cover the third, fourth and fifth regularly scheduled B.O.S. field trips for 1966.

THE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

by Edward C. Ulrich

In epeirogenetic ages a huge basin was formed in the north central part of the North American Continent. Through the centuries the region has been alternately covered by seas and glaciers.

About 10,000 years ago the last these glaciers retreated, leaving in its wake the largest group of fresh water lakes, the Great Lakes. These geological actions have mantled the State of Michigan with alternate layers of sand, gravel and clay.

Geographically, the State of Michigan lies near the center of this concentration of water and has on all sides, except on the southern boundary, a shore line of water touched by all of the Great Lakes except Lake Ontario. The general elevation of the lower peninsula is flat, with an average of 854 feet above sea level, and has its highest point of 1710 feet in the north central part of Osceola County. The state may be roughly divided into five different regions, ranging from south to north: (1) the prairie region of the south; (2) the great marshes of the south east; (3) the pine forest region towards the center; (4) the sand barrens or "Jack Pine Plains" and (5) the hardwood forest.

A part of the state which has aroused greatest interest among ornithologists is the Jack Pine region which is roughly encompassed by the following counties: on the north by the southern part of Presque Isle and on the south by northern Clare County; on the east to Lake Huron in Iosco County and by Kalkaska County in the west. This area covers approximately 95 miles from north to south and 90 miles from east to west. Here in the lower limits of the Jack Pine forests is the only nesting habitat of the Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica Kirtlandii*). The soil is sandy, poor and impoverished and supports mostly Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*) with a slight mixture of White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*). Most prominent of the deciduous plants are the restricted growths of oaks, aspen, cherry and Juneberry. Sedges, grasses, blueberries, blackberries and Sweet Fern (*Comptonia peregrina*) are the lower growing types. The sandy soil, low-growing plants and the short young trees of the Jack Pine provide the elements which favor the nesting of the ground-loving Kirtland's Warbler, while in the bracken and sweet fern ecology the Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) finds a haven.

Remnants of the once abundant Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) can be found in the more open patches of prairie lands interspersed near Lovells.

In an entirely different life zone, in the marshes of the south, nesting Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) may be found.

In 1948, with the prospect of seeing new birding territory and



adding new lifers, a group from the Buffalo Ornithological Society decided on a pilgrimage to Michigan. Under the able leadership of Harold D. Mitchell, plans were laid for a trip across Canada into the Jack Pine Plain of the north-central Lower Peninsula and then to the marshes in the southern part of the state. Reports of nesting Wilson Phalaropes on an abandoned gunnery range near Lorne, Ontario prompted a projected visit to that area.

The trip met with great success. The group left Buffalo on Friday evening of the 1948 Decoration Day weekend, stopping over night at St. Thomas, Ontario.

In the morning a well-directed trip to the north of Lorne, Ontario, took us to the immediate nesting site of Wilson's Phalaropes. After viewing thses birds, the party still had enough time to reach the area of the Kirtland's Warbler near Lovells, Michigan, before nightfall.

Early morning risers on the following day had the good fortune to both hear and see the Prairie Chickens on their nuptial booming grounds.

In a telephone conversation with Dr. Van Tyne, Harold Mitchell received directions to a colony of nesting Kirtland's Warblers near Greyling, Michigan, and provided immediate sights and songs of these rare birds. Observations at one place near Lovells led to the site where a dwarfed low-growing poplar gave shelter to the nest and eggs of a Clay-colored Sparrow.

Several marshes in south-central Michigan provide habitat suited for the nesting of Sandhill Cranes. The group had the good fortune to locate some of these birds on property near Waterloo, Michigan.

Planned bird trips in the field meet with varying degrees of success. There are voids in many of them. This weekend trip had none. Each sector which we visited had its own particular ecological niche and in each niche we found what we were after.

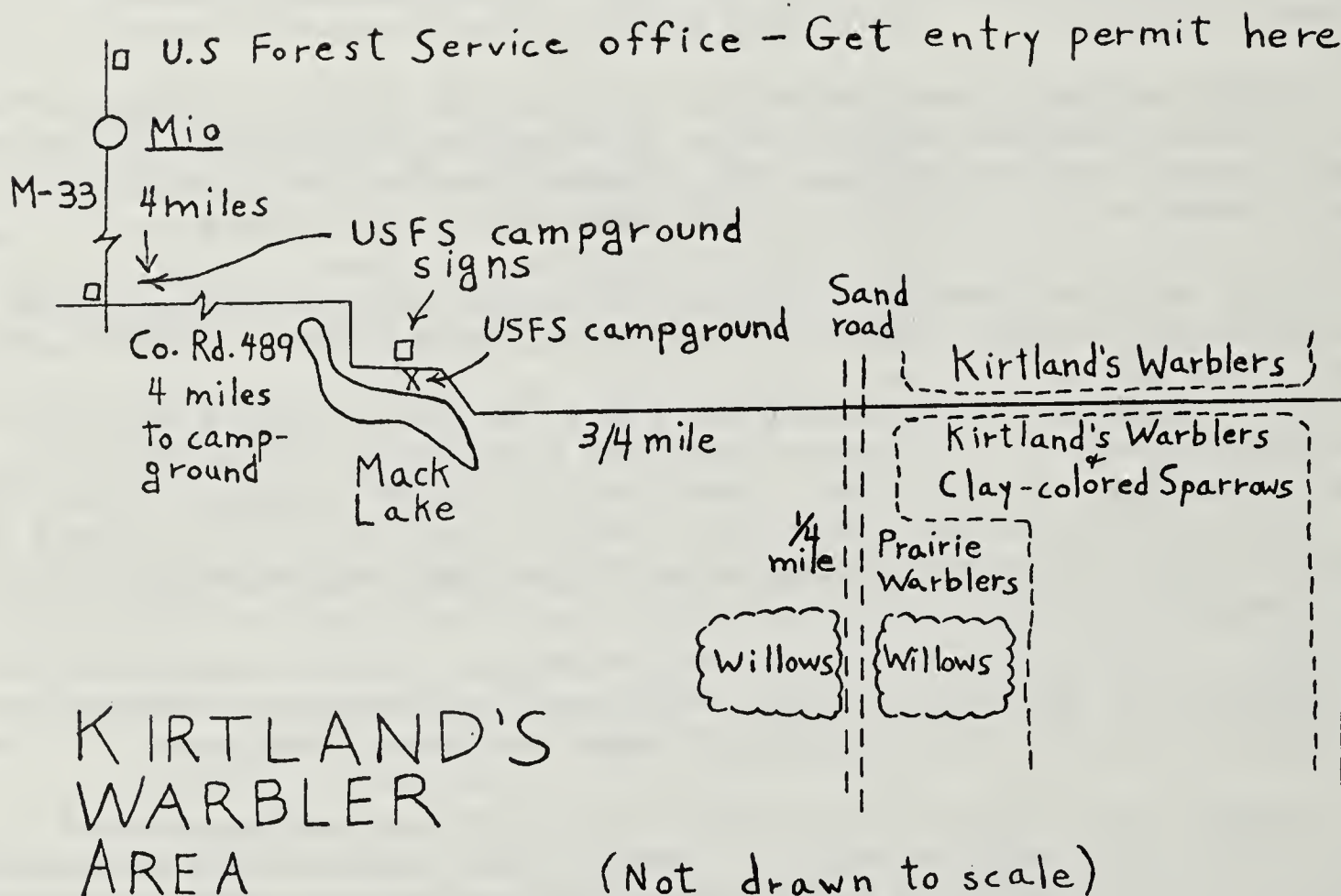
Near Roscommon, in a state park, there remain standing some gigantic White Pines. A stop here filled us with awe as we stood among these huge survivors of the famed pine forest that once covered central Michigan.

In the barrens the Jack Pines were in bloom and at the slightest touch the flowering trees gave off clouds of pollen, an assurance of the continuation of the species.

In each place we looked we found life: in the grassy marsh of the Ontario Peninsula; in the barrens of the sand country; in the more fertile spots of the adjoining grass plains; in the remaining part of the White Pine forest and in the cattail marshes of the south.

In an effort to control and perpetuate the conditions under which the Kirtland's Warbler can survive, the Conservation Department of the

State of Michigan has a planned and controlled burning program and I believe some restrictions on entry in the controlled area are in force. This is suggested by the accompanying map of the Kirtland's Warbler area from "Bird Finding in Washtenaw County," on which a permit station is noted.



The following books have been of help in preparing this short article: The Kirtland's Warbler by Harold Mayfield; Michigan Bird Life by Walter B. Barrows; the above-mentioned pamphlet prepared by the Washtenaw Audubon Society, and the Prothonotary, July, 1948.



EXCHANGE BULLETINS

The following is a complete list of publications currently being received by the Buffalo Ornithological Society in exchange for the Prothonotary. Each is available for loan to B.O.S. members at regular meetings.

In addition to these exchange publications the Society subscribes to Audubon Field Notes and The Kingbird and keeps a complete file of The Auk, a gift from Mary Louise Emerson.

ACTA BIOLOGICA VENEZUELICA Universidad Central de Venezuela	(quarterly) Caracas, Venezuela
THE ATLANTIC NATURALIST Audubon Naturalist Society	(quarterly) Washington, D.C.
BROOKLYN BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER Brooklyn Bird Club	(monthly) Brooklyn, N.Y.
CALL NOTES Huntington Bird Club	(quarterly) Huntington, West Virginia
CLEVELAND BIRD CALENDAR Cleveland Museum of Natural History and The Kirtland Bird Club	(quarterly) Cleveland, Ohio
FEATHERS Schenectady Bird Club	(bi-monthly) Schenectady, N.Y.
THE GOSHAWK Burroughs Audubon Society	Rochester, N.Y.
IOWA BIRD LIFE Iowa Ornithologists' Union	(quarterly) Davenport, Iowa
LINNEAN NEWS-LETTER Linnean Society	(nine times a year) New York, N.Y.
MAINE FIELD NATURALIST Maine Audubon Society	(monthly) Portland, Maine
MARYLAND BIRD LIFE Maryland Ornithological Society	(quarterly) Baltimore, Md.
MEMORIA Sociedad de Ciencia Naturales La Salle	(quarterly) Caracas, Venezuela
THE MIGRANT Tennessee Ornithological Society	(bi-monthly) Elizabethton, Tenn.
ONTARIO NATURALIST Federation of Ontario Naturalists	(quarterly) Don Mills, Ontario

THE RING	(quarterly)
Polish Zoological Society	Wroclaw, Poland
ROCKLAND AUDUBON OBSERVER	(bi-monthly)
Rockland Audubon Society	West Nyack, N.Y.
SCARSDALE AUDUBON SOCIETY BULLETIN	(bi-monthly)
Scarsdale Audubon Society	Scarsdale, N.Y.
SOUTH PEEL NATURALIST	
South Peel Naturalist Society	Oakville, Ontario
THE TASMANIAN NATURALIST	(quarterly)
Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club	Hobart, Tasmania
WESTERN Tanager	(monthly)
Los Angeles Audubon Society	Los Angeles, Calif.
THE WOOD DUCK	(monthly)
Hamilton Naturalists' Club	Hamilton, Ontario

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NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM

The Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology is continuing its nest record program begun last year on a continent-wide basis. The B.O.S. has a number of these nest record cards available for those who wish to report nesting activities.

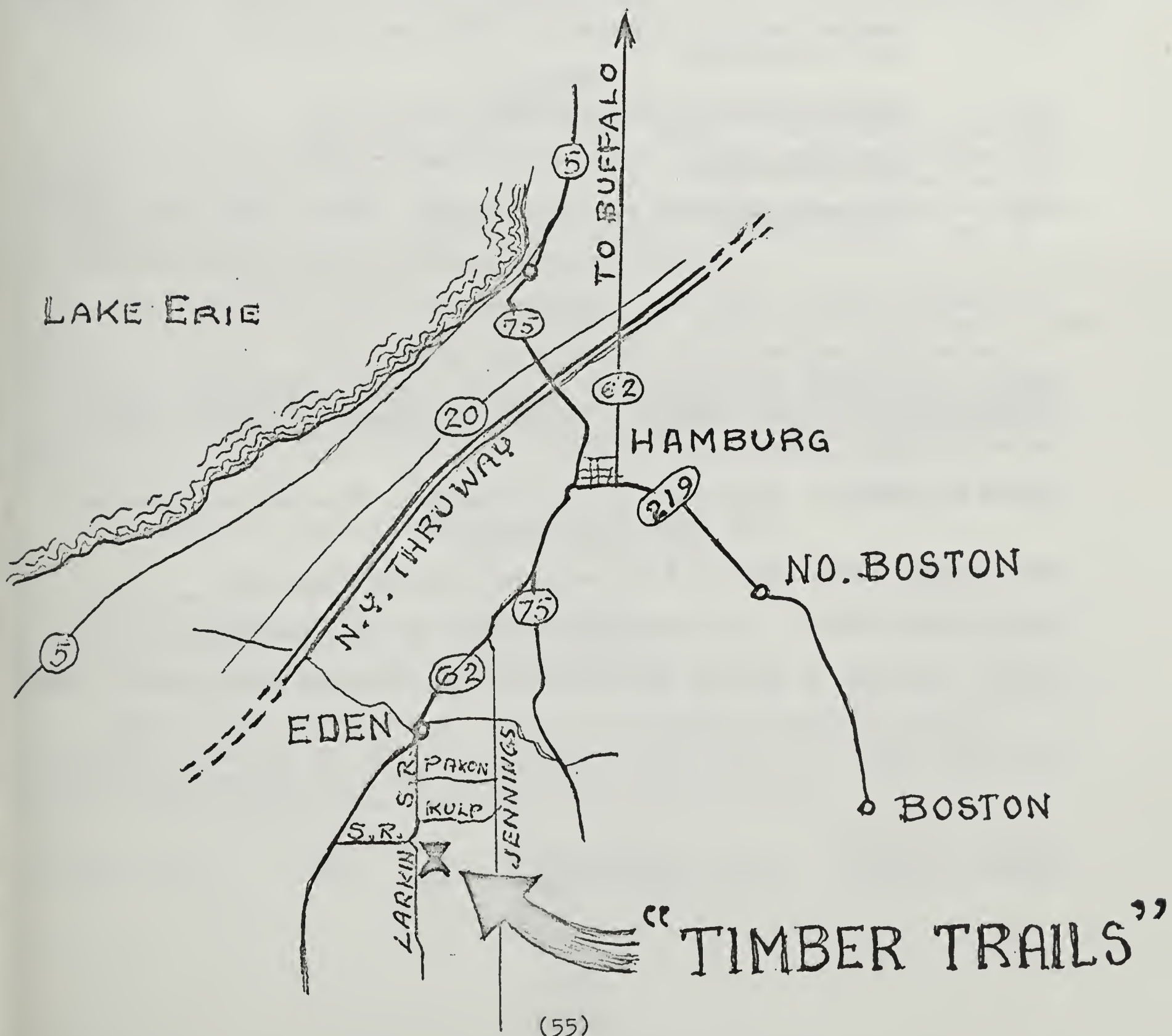
Anyone wishing to obtain a supply of these cards should contact:

Marie Wendling (NF 2-6625)  
87 Garrison Road  
Williamville, N.Y. 14221



Come prepared for some early morning birding along the trails of this wildlife sanctuary before and after breakfast. You're most welcome to prowl anytime after 4 a.m. - Dawn will break around 5:17 a.m. A more formal walk will be conducted to the "drumming log" and "turkey spring" at 10 a.m. Those wishing to remain for a picnic at the Shale Creek Nature Center should bring lunches.

Directions: Driving south on Rte. 62 from Hamburg, continue through Eden beyond traffic light. Highway gradually curves right and a road marked "Sandrock" rises steeply up a hill to the left. Turn here and stay on Sandrock for 1½ miles to Larkin Road, which suddenly appears as the third on the left off Sandrock. Bigelow mailbox and driveway will be to the left. Please park as far up the driveway and into the field as practical to make room for others.



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

- May 25 - Program by the Research Committee, Dr. Robert Andrle, Chairman
- June 4 - Annual B.O.S. Breakfast, Timber Trails, Eden, N.Y. See previous page for details.

No meetings in June, July or August

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- May 15 - May Bird Count. For assignment of territories please contact the leader, Miss Marie Wendling, 87 Garrison Road, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221 (632-6625)
- May 22 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Whimbrels. Leader Paul Benham (877-5202). Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 8 a.m.
- July 4 - Weekend trip to Michigan for Kirtland's Warbler. Details to be announced.
- July 9 - Supper picnic at Timber Trails, Eden, N.Y.
- July 17 - Shorebird Count. Leader, Dr. Robert Andrle.
- July 30 - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Leader, Anna Mae Bacon

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086. (NT4-5128)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

BACK ISSUES: Available at \$.15 per copy from the Treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$1.50 per year, payable to the Treasurer.

EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301.





# THE PROTHONOTARY

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 32

May 1966

Number 5

## THE MONTH

Rainfall in April was 0.95 in. below normal. Temperature averaged out near the mean, but in the first two weeks it was from one to six degrees below normal every day. The rest of the month was warmer except the very cold 26th to 28th. The 19th to 21st brought the hottest weather and heaviest migration movements of the month. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

The best hawk flight was recorded on the 21st. Larger numbers of Turkey Vultures and Ospreys were recorded this April than during most recent spring migrations. The pair of Common Eiders included the only male in breeding plumage ever recorded here. The Semipalmated Sandpiper, studied closely on two successive days by several competent observers, was twelve days earlier than the previous earliest spring date — May 4, 1941. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

*Common Loon	Apr.	2	1 Cuba Lake	Burtens, Palmer
	"	12	6 Hamburg Town Park	Danner, Schafer



Vol. 32, No. 5 - Noteworthy Records, (cont.)

*Common Loon	Apr.	21	3	Allegany Rd., Hanover	Burger, Brownstein
"	"	21	4	over Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	21	1	over Hamburg	Bourne
*Red-necked Grebe	"	11	1	Smiths Mills	Grzybowski
"	"	20	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Horned Grebe	"	12	50	Cuba Lake	Burtens
Pied-billed Grebe	"	3	26	Chautauqua County	Grzybowski, Benham
*Green Heron	"	20	1	Dunkirk	Pillsbury
"	"	24	4	Dunkirk	Grzybowski, Benham
*American Bittern	"	11	1	Tillman Rd., Clarence	Grzybowski
"	"	14	1	Cuba	Burtens
Whistling Swan	"	1	66	Oak Orchard GMA	Burger
"	"	2,7,12	82,76,5	Cuba	Burtens et al
"	"	3,4,6	1,11,14	Wellsville	Burtens
"	"	3	11	Chautauqua County	Grzybowski, Benham
"	"	5	73	Port Colborne, Ont.	Andrle, Hall
"	"	7	12	Tonawanda GMA	Freitag
"	"	10	48	Oak Orchard GMA	Andrles
"	"	10	1	Beaver Island State Pk.	Freitag
"	"	11,14	3,15	Cuba	Burtens
"	"	11	38	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski
"	"	15	2	Allegany Rd., Hanover	Grzybowski, Hess
"	"	21	4	over Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Canada Goose	"	7	18,000	Oak Orchard GMA	Freitag
Blue Goose	"	5	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Webster
"	"	11	1	Tonawanda GMA	Grzybowski
Gadwall	"	3	10	Riverside	Elderkin
"	"	5	3	Hamburg Town Park	Danner, Schafer
"	"	5	1	East Eden Pond	Bourne
"	"	7	11	Riverside	Beal
"	"	9	1	Waterport	Benham
"	"	9	1	Cassadaga Lake	Rew et al
"	"	26	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
American Widgeon	"	3	100	Riverside	Beal
Shoveler	"	5	9	Oak Orchard GMA	Webster
"	"	7	4	Celeron	Beal
"	"	8	4	Oak Orchard GMA	Klabundes
"	"	9	2	Tonawanda GMA	Benham
"	"	13,14	2,4	Cuba	Olmstead
"	"	14	3	Cuba	Burtens
"	"	16	2	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Ring-necked Duck	"	12	50	Cuba	Burtens
"	"	29	2	Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
Canvasback	"	3	1000	Chautauqua Lake	Grzybowski, Benham
Greater Scaup	"	14	1800	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
Lesser Scaup	"	10	100	Hamburg	Burger, Brownstein
*Common Eider	"	14	2	Hamburg Town Park	Danner, Schafer
*Common Scoter	"	3	1	Olcott	Burger, Brownstein
"	"	11	1	Fort Niagara	Grzybowski
"	"	20	1	Bay View	Bourne
"	"	24	1	Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
Ruddy Duck	"	2,7	1,4	Cuba Lake	Burtens, Palmer
"	"	5	1	East Eden Pond	Bourne
"	"	9	1	Bear Lake	Rew et al



Ruddy Duck	Apr.	11	2 Cuba	Olmstead
	"	25	3 Water Valley	Bourne
Turkey Vulture	(A better than average flight; see <u>Hawk Migration Data</u> )			
Sharp-sh. Hawk	Apr.	9	1 Sturgeon Point	Rew et al
	"	21	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Cooper's Hawk	"	9	1 Evans	Rew et al
	"	12	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	21	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Broad-winged Hawk	"	19	3 Belmont	Olmstead
Rough-legged Hawk	"	7	1 Tonawanda GMA	Freitag
	"	11	1 Newfane	Grzybowski
	"	12	1 Yorks Corners	Burtons
	"	16	1 Belmont	Olmstead
*Osprey	Apr.	15	1 Scio	Burtons
	"	16	1 Hamburg	Andrle
	"	16	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	16-30	1-3 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	20	1 Dunkirk	Pillsbury
	"	24	1 Dunkirk	Mitchell, Hammond
	"	26	1 Sturgeon Point	Bourne
	"	27	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	27	1 Allegany Rd., Hanover	Freitag
	"	28	2 Oak Orchard GMA	Benham
	"	28	1 Batavia	Buckland
	"	29	1 Transit	Burtons
	"	29	1 Kiantone	Pillsbury
	"	30	1 Riverside	Elderkin
*Pigeon Hawk	"	20	1 Lake View	Bourne
(Also see records of this species under <u>Hawk Migration Data</u> )				
Bobwhite	Apr.	10	9 Oak Orchard GMA	Andrles
*Chukar	"	11	1 Shadigee Rd., Newfane	Grzybowski
Turkey	"	29	1 Langford	Bourne
*Virginia Rail	"	16	3 Oak Orchard GMA	Benham
	"	26	1 Kiantone	Swanson
Sora	"	24	1 Clarence	McKales
*Common Gallinule	"	11	1 Riverside	Elderkin
Upland Plover	"	20	2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	20	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Spotted Sandpiper	"	19	2 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
*Solitary Sandpiper	"	22	1 Kiantone	Pillsbury
	"	24	1 Clarence	McKales
	"	24	1 Langford	Dodges
Greater Yellowlegs	"	21	16 Hanover Sinks	Burger, Brownstein
	"	30	29 Hanover Sinks	Clark, Rew et al
*Lesser Yellowlegs	"	16	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	"	21	118 Hanover Sinks	Burger, Brownstein
	"	29	150 Sinclairville	Pillsbury
	"	30	110 Hanover Sinks	Clark, Rew et al
*Semipal. Sandpiper	Apr.	23	1 Prendergast Point	Pillsbury, Bates et al
	Apr.	24	1 Prendergast Point	Grzybowski et al
Bonaparte's Gull	Apr.	8F	3 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	9	2 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
*Little Gull	"	16	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Burger et al
Common Tern	"	11F	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Grzybowski

Vol. 32, No. 5 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Common Tern	Apr.	12	20	Hamburg Town Park	Danner, Schafer
Caspian Tern	"	19	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Swanson
	"	20	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pillsbury
	"	24	2	Dunkirk	Grzybowski, Benham
	"	26	1	Sturgeon Point	Bourne
	"	27	2	Times Beach, Buffalo	Kikta, Schwenger
	"	27	3	Hamburg	Bourne
*Black Tern	Apr.	28	1	South Park, Buffalo	Andrle, Byron
	Apr.	30	5	Mud Lake, Ont.	Benham
	"	30	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Barn Owl	"	3	1	Youngstown Cemetery	Burger, Brownstein
	"	11	1	Busti	Pillsbury
Long-eared Owl	"	16	1	Wilson Cemetery	McKales
	"	16, 23	1	Youngstown Cemetery	McKales
*Whip-poor-will	"	20	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	20	1	Bemus Point	Swanson
	"	25	1	Hamburg	Bourne
*Chimney Swift	"	19	1	Kiantone	Pillsbury
	"	20	2	Frewsburg	Gulvin
Yel.-sh. Flicker	"	20	94	over Lake View	Clark
	"	21	68	over Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	23	116	over Lake View	Clark
Red-bel. Wdpkr.	"	15	1	Brentwood	Burtens, Olmstead
	"	15	3	Caneadea	Burtens, et al
	"	23	1	Youngstown Cemetery	McKales
Yel.-b. Sapsucker	"	4F	1	Sturgeon Point	Bourne
	"	19	21	Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Benham
	"	21	13	over Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	24	20	South Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski, Benham
*Eastern Kingbird	Apr.	24	1	West Mud Lake	Rew
	Apr.	25	1	Kiantone	Pillsbury
	Apr.	28	1	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	29	1	East Eden Pond	Bourne
Horned Lark					
( <u>E.a. alpestris</u> )	Apr.	11L	1	Newfane	Grzybowski
Bank Swallow	"	18	1	Lake Shore Rd., Hamburg	Burger, Brownstein
	"	18	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
*Rough-w. Swallow	"	16	1	Tillman Rd., Clarence	Benham
*Barn Swallow	"	16	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Cliff Swallow	"	24	1	Conewango Valley	Pillsbury
Purple Martin	"	11	1	Lake Shore Rd., Evans	Grzybowski
Tufted Titmouse	"	3-10	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	19	1	Dunkirk	Swanson
	"	24	2	Evans	Andrle
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	1-30	2	Springbrook	Danner, Schafer
	"	22F	1	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	23	1	Youngstown	McKales
	"	24	2	Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Freitag
	"	25	1	Scio	Burtens
*House Wren	Apr.	25	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	"	30	1	North Boston	Dodges
Catbird	"	29	1	Springbrook	Schafer
Robin	"	18	1242	Lake View	Burger, Brownstein
	"	20	2375	Lake View	Clark
*Wood Thrush	"	29	1	Allegany Rd., Hanover	Burger
	"	30	1	Buffalo	Wendlings



Hermit Thrush	Apr.	14	1	Boston	Bourne
Eastern Bluebird	"	3	1	Stage Rd., Newstead	Grzybowski
	"	6,22	6,2	Belmont, Friendship	Olmstead
	"	9	1	Belmont	Burtens
	"	12	1	Friendship	Burtens
	"	16	1	Riverside	Elderkin
	"	18	1	Batavia	Buckland
	"	18	1	Lake Shore Rd., Hamburg	Burger, Brownstein
	"	19,25	1,2	Wellsville	Burtens
	"	21	11	Point Gratiot	Burger, Brownstein
	"	23	1	Franklinville	Burger
	"	23	2	Youngstown	McKales
*B.-gr. Gnatcatcher	"	20	1	Dunkirk	Pillsbury
	"	21	7	Point Gratiot	Burger, Brownstein
	"	23	2	Springbrook	Danner
	"	24	4	Portland	Grzybowski et al
	"	30	2	Lake Erie State Park	Pillsbury
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	"	14F	12	Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Benham
Northern Shrike	"	1-8L	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Loggerhead Shrike	"	2	1	Clarence Center	McKales
	"	3	1	Tillman Rd., Clarence	Grzybowski, Benham
	"	4	1	Royalton	Benham
	"	4	1	Ellery	Rew
	"	10	1,1	Belmont, Angelica	Burtens
	"	11	1	East Shelby	Grzybowski
	"	16	1	Wilson	McKales
	"	19	1	Brocton	Swanson
	"	26	1	Scio	Burtens
B.-&-wh. Warbler	"	24	3	Springbrook	Danner
	"	30	2	Buffalo	Wendlings
	"	30	1	Dunkirk	Pillsbury
*Nashville Warbler	"	30	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
	"	30	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Andrle
*Yellow Warbler	"	24,25	1	Eden	Bourne
	"	25	2	Falconer	Pillsbury
*Myrtle Warbler	"	21	7	Point Gratiot	Burger, Brownstein
	"	21	3	Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	22	2	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	22	1	East Eden Pond	Bourne
B.-t. Green Warbler	Apr.	30	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Andrle
Pine Warbler	"	19	1	Springbrook	Danner
	"	28	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
	"	29,30	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
*Palm Warbler	"	21	2	Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Nor. Waterthrush	"	24	1	Point Gratiot	Grzybowski, Benham
	"	28	1	Point Stockholm	Swanson
*La. Waterthrush	"	30	4	Chestnut Ridge Park	Andrle
*Bobolink	"	29	1	Belmont	Burtens
	"	29	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	30	7	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	30	1	Sinclairville	Pillsbury
*W. Meadowlark	"	21	1	Center Rd., Sheridan	Burger, Brownstein
	"	24	1	Center Rd., Sheridan	Benham, Grzybowski
	"	27	1	Lake View	Bourne

Red-w. Blackbird	Apr.	18	1960	Lake Shore Rd., Hamburg	Burger, Brownstein
"	"	20	3925	Lake View	Clark
Rusty Blackbird	"	18	187	Lake Shore Rd., Hamburg	Burger, Brownstein
Common Grackle	"	20	1170	Lake View	Clark
Evening Grosbeak	"	1-29	3-25	Belmont	Burtens
"	"	1-30	8-12	Hamburg (f)	Andrle
"	"	1-30	1-15	Frewsburg (f)	Gulvin
"	"	12	50	Cuba Lake	Burtens
"	"	12,30	5,3	Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	18	1	Lake Shore Rd., Hamburg	Burger, Brownstein
"	"	20,21	6	Springbrook	Danner
"	"	22	20	Friendship	Olmstead
"	"	23	2	Lake View	Clark
"	"	24	1	Point Gratiot	Grzybowski, Benham
Common Redpoll	"	9	1	Dunkirk	Rew et al
"	"	16	1	Shadigee Rd., Newfane	Klabundes
Pine Siskin	"	9	2	Dunkirk	Rew et al
"	"	21	2	over Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	25	2	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
White-w. Crossbill	"	2,4	2	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
"	"	21	3	over Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Grasshopper Sparrow	"	24	1	Eden	Bourne
*Henslow's Sparrow	"	21	1	Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	23	1	Grand Island	Seeber
"	"	23	2	Orchard Park	Kikta
Tree Sparrow	"	29	1	Springbrook	Schafer
"	"	29	3	Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
*Chipping Sparrow	"	7	1	Riverside	Beal
White-cr. Sparrow	"	26F-30	1	Belmont (f)	Burtens
"	"	30	2	Bear Lake	Pillsbury
White-thr. Sparrow	"	12F	3	Springbrook	Schafer
"	"	14	1	Eden	Bourne
Swamp Sparrow	Apr.	3	1	Tonawanda Indian Reser.	Grzybowski

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded this year:	136
Additional species, subspecies and hybrids:	45
Total for 1966:	181



APRIL 1966 HAWK MIGRATIONSApril 2

Hamburg to Angola  
Burger, Brownstein

Turkey Vulture	3
Rough-legged Hawk	<u>2</u>
	5

April 10 - 9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Four-Mile Creek State Park  
Klabundes

Turkey Vulture	30
Sharp-shinned Hawk	15
Cooper's Hawk	4
Red-tailed Hawk	19
Red-shouldered Hawk	9
Rough-legged Hawk	5
Marsh Hawk	<u>10</u>
	92

April 15

Hanover  
Grzybowski, Hess

Sharp-shinned Hawk	5
Broad-winged Hawk	<u>2</u>
	7

April 16

Hamburg to Hanover  
Burger, Brownstein

Turkey Vulture	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Cooper's Hawk	3
Red-tailed Hawk	5
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Marsh Hawk	1
Sparrow Hawk	<u>1</u>
	19

April 18 - 6:06 - 7:30 a.m.  
Highland-on-the-Lake  
Burger, Brownstein

Sharp-shinned Hawk	32
Marsh Hawk	<u>2</u>
	34

April 19

Dunkirk  
Swanson

Sharp-shinned Hawk	6
Red-tailed Hawk	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>10</u>
	21

April 20 - 5:45 - 8:15 a.m.  
Lake View  
Clark

Sharp-shinned Hawk	19
Marsh Hawk	1
Sparrow Hawk	<u>4</u>
	24

April 21 - 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.  
Athol Springs  
Andrle

Sharp-shinned Hawk	18
Broad-winged Hawk	570
Marsh Hawk	1
Pigeon Hawk	<u>1</u>
	590

April 21 - 8:30 - 11:20 a.m.  
Dunkirk to Hanover  
Burger, Brownstein

Sharp-shinned Hawk	147
Cooper's Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Broad-winged Hawk	630
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Marsh Hawk	2
Osprey	1
Pigeon Hawk	2
Sparrow Hawk	<u>3</u>
	793

April 21 - 6:00 - 7:30 a.m..  
Como Park, Lancaster  
Grzybowski

Sharp-shinned Hawk	18
Cooper's Hawk	3
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Sparrow Hawk	<u>5</u>
	27

April 21 - 6:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
near Lyndonville  
Smith

Sharp-shinned Hawk	288
Cooper's Hawk	75
Red-shouldered Hawk	2
Broad-winged Hawk	106
Rough-legged Hawk	2
Marsh Hawk	4
Sparrow Hawk	9
	<u>486</u>

April 24  
Alma to Pikeville  
Burtons

Turkey Vulture	13
Broad-winged Hawk	5
Rough-legged Hawk	7
Marsh Hawk	2
	<u>27</u>

April 25 - 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Lancaster  
Grzybowski

Red-tailed Hawk	3
Broad-winged Hawk	46
	<u>49</u>

April 28  
Chestnut Ridge Park  
Bourne

Broad-winged Hawk	2
Osprey	1
	<u>3</u>

April 29  
Irving  
Benham

Broad-winged Hawk	58
	<u>58</u>

April 29  
West Seneca  
Burger, Brownstein

Broad-winged Hawk	25
Bald Eagle (immature)	1
	<u>26</u>

April 29  
Lancaster  
Grzybowski

Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Broad-winged Hawk	8
	<u>9</u>

April 30  
Hamburg  
Andrle

Sharp-shinned Hawk	29
Broad-winged Hawk	6
	<u>35</u>

April 30  
Dunkirk to Hanover  
Clark

Sharp-shinned Hawk	6
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Bald Eagle (immature)	1
	<u>8</u>

April 30  
Hamburg  
Thill

Sharp-shinned Hawk	27
Cooper's Hawk	1
Broad-winged Hawk	23
Marsh Hawk	1
Osprey	1
Pigeon Hawk	1
	<u>54</u>

NOTE: Additional information on these flights may be found in the original reports in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

Joseph Grzybowski



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESB.O.S. Field Trip to Allegany County - Saturday, May 6, 1966

Our guests from the B.O.S. arrived at the Hale farm at Caneadea early on May 6 and were acquainted with our host before the group of local birders and nature enthusiasts arrived. The birding group was soon enroute up a steep incline, attempting to follow a trail blazed a few days earlier by the leader and our host through a maturing stand of mixed hardwoods and coniferous trees typical of much of our once lumbered-over areas. A spot of real interest, where perhaps a hundred mature white pines still stand, was missed on the first trip, but covered on the second trip later in the day.

Our first find of the morning (by the Ulrichs and Wendlings) was a Great Crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus crinitus boreus) elegant in spring plumage. Just about all of the members of this group had a real view of the bird as he remained in the area for a few minutes. Here we missed the trail and wandered into a swampy morass, noting the work of the Pileated Woodpecker and hearing his call notes in the distance. We had hoped to hear the call notes of the Red-bellied Woodpecker in this area, as they had been heard and seen near there during the weeks before. We then came out into an open field with a number of specimen Hickory trees and then continued across to an old pasture, now rapidly growing up to Thorn Apple. Field and Song Sparrows were numerous in sight and song. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks came into view over the hill, as flickers called and passed across the open field. We skirted around the marsh in hopes of hearing or seeing the Wood Duck which nest there.

It was time for lunch, and we had turned back toward our starting point when our first warblers were observed among the buds of the soft maple. In the meantime, two members of the party were stalking a thrush away from the main party. This gray-backed thrush proved to be a Swainson's Thrush. Black-and-white, Myrtle, Blackburnian and Orange-crowned Warblers were mentioned by various observers at this stop.

On returning to our starting point, Green Heron and Wood Duck were seen in flight. The group returning from the river area mentioned seeing the Osprey, which has been numerous along the river this year, as well as Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers and the Northern Waterthrush.

After lunch the group traveled by car to a higher elevation to an open meadow surrounded on all sides by forest land in various stages of growth. Bobolinks and Meadowlarks greeted the early arrivals at this point. Here the trail was well marked with red muslin streamers. We followed along the edge of the meadow in a thirty-year-old stand of Red Pine and Spruce, into a second growth area of native shrubs and trees to another marsh. A chilling wind and spitting snow kept most of us to the cover of the woodland as we followed a well-used deer trail through Larch. Ruby-crowned Kinglets hopped and "tee-tee-tewed" in the branches. A Hermit Thrush and a Nashville Warbler were noted, and a few minutes later we found the nest of a Mourning Dove. Grouse flashed as we entered a maturing stand of hemlocks and journeyed back to the open field. All were eager to get to the warmth of their cars as we went back to the base area. A few hardy souls were now ready to go to the river area but found that with the use of scopes they could see the Sandpipers and Waterthrush from this vantage point. A later count indicated that about sixty species were reported for this day.

Additional species may have been seen by some of the sixty observers who attended the field trip.

The Allegany County Bird Club welcomed this opportunity to have members of the B.O.S. with us and extend a cordial invitation to visit again as a group or as individuals in the future.

Lou L. Burton

Field Trip to the Canadian Shore of Lake Erie - May 22, 1966

The weather on May 22 was foggy and cool (55-60 degrees) as three observers covered the Canadian shore of Lake Erie for Whimbrels.

At the first stop, Dunnville Marsh, we got a good look at a Long-billed Marsh Wren building a nest. Grant Point produced dense fog and a single dead White-winged Scoter.

Rockhouse Point was fogged in, but offered 3 Gadwall, Bufflehead and Oldsquaw. In the field at Rockhouse, we heard and observed singing a Western Meadowlark. The Point produced seven species of shorebirds, but no Whimbrel. Most numerous were Dunlin and Semi-palmated Sandpipers.

Stopping in the mud flats west of Morgan's Point, we found 3 Whimbrel, the total number for the day. Other shore points up to Fort Erie yielded a total of 75 species, with a low total of individuals.

Paul Benham

Report of the April Bird Count

Date: April 17, 1966

Weather Conditions: A ridge of high pressure prevailing over Western New York and adjacent Southern Ontario on the date of the count provided sunny and clear conditions in all sections reported. The U.S. Weather Bureau at Buffalo reported a low temperature of 33 degrees and a high of 56 degrees. There was no precipitation.

Species Recorded: Figures in parentheses indicate division numbers where the species was observed in three or fewer sections. Underlined common names indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 3rd Ed., Revised 1965) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Loons - Mergansers

Common Loon	12	Black-crowned Night Heron	27 (9)
Red-necked Grebe	2 (4)	American Bittern	7
Horned Grebe	941	Whistling Swan	18
Pied-billed Grebe	60	Canada Goose	45,338
Great Blue Heron	78	Blue Goose	1 (10)



Vol. 32, No. 5 - April Bird Count (cont.)

Mallard	569	Canvasback	11
Black Duck	247	Greater Scaup	4761
Gadwall	27	Lesser Scaup	816
Pintail	430	Common Goldeneye	279
Green-winged Teal	76	Bufflehead	1177
Blue-winged Teal	159	Oldsquaw	250
*American Widgeon	332	White-winged Scoter	27 (4,1)
Shoveler	12	Ruddy Duck	35
Wood Duck	82	Hooded Merganser	159
Redhead	76	Common Merganser	761
Ring-necked Duck	157	Red-breast. Merganser	1602

Vultures - Rails:

Turkey Vulture	54	Osprey	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	30	Sparrow Hawk	115
Cooper's Hawk	7	Ruffed Grouse	35
Red-tailed Hawk	115	Bobwhite	1 (4)
Red-shouldered Hawk	32	Ring-necked Pheasant	192
Broad-winged Hawk	9(20,25)	Turkey	28(25,27,28)
Rough-legged Hawk	7	*Sora	1 (26)
Bald Eagle	2 (27)	Common Gallinule	3(10,11,23)
Marsh Hawk	27	American Coot	37

Plovers - Terns:

Killdeer	448	Great Black-backed Gull	11 (7,16,20)
American Woodcock	15	Herring Gull	1044
Common Snipe	69	Ring-billed Gull	6318
*Upland Plover	1 (10)	Bonaparte's Gull	1418
*Spotted Sandpiper	3(27,28)	Common Tern	138
Lesser Yellowlegs	2(16,28)	*Caspian Tern	1 (26)
Greater Yellowlegs	20		
Pectoral Sandpiper	98		
*Glaucous Gull	1 (7)		

Doves - Swallows:

Mourning Dove	492	Yellow-b. Sapsucker	15
Barn Owl	2 (28)	Hairy Woodpecker	78
Screech Owl	1 (12)	Downy Woodpecker	225
Great Horned Owl	12	Eastern Phoebe	287
Barred Owl	4(25,26)	Horned Lark (E.a.p.)	333
Long-eared Owl	3 (28)	Tree Swallow	362
Belted Kingfisher	99	*Bank Swallow	5 (19)
Yellow-shafted Flicker	227	Rough-winged Swallow	5 (5,7)
Pileated Woodpecker	22	Barn Swallow	79
*Red-bellied Woodpecker	7	*Cliff Swallow	1 (19)
		Purple Martin	122

Jays - Starlings:

Blue Jay	350	Robin	7977
Common Crow	1941	Hermit Thrush	7
Black-c. Chickadee	880	Eastern Bluebird	74

Vol. 32, No. 5 - April Bird Count (cont.)

Tufted Titmouse	8	Brown Thrasher	1 (2)
White-br. Nuthatch	217	Golden-cr. Kinglet	67
Red-breast. Nuthatch	9	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	4(7,11,27)
Brown Creeper	13	Water Pipit	73
*Winter Wren	1 (27)	Cedar Waxwing	21(5,13,15)
Carolina Wren	1 (21)	Loggerhead Shrike	4
*Catbird	1 (20)	Starling	22,190

Vireos - Fringillids:

*Pine Warbler	1 (20)	Rufous-sided Towhee	25
House Sparrow	5246	Savannah Sparrow	138
Eastern Meadowlark	1441	Vesper Sparrow	126
Red-w. Blackbird	17,092	Slate-colored Junco	1565
Rusty Blackbird	652	Tree Sparrow	412
Common Grackle	12,804	Chipping Sparrow	31
Brown-head. Cowbird	2817	Field Sparrow	82
Cardinal	308	White-cr. Sparrow	31
Evening Grosbeak	354	White-thr. Sparrow	9
Purple Finch	55	Fox Sparrow	32
Pine Siskin	2	Swamp Sparrow	14
*American Goldfinch	66	Song Sparrow	4398

Miscellaneous: unidentified ducks, 1,110; unidentified icterids, 500.  
GRAND TOTAL, 130 species; about 154,450 individuals.

Sectional Divisions and Observers: The following divisions are those defined by the map "Sectional Divisions of the Territory of the Buffalo Ornithological Society" (1956). The list gives the number of each division and the name of a place located in that division. Underlined names denote the individuals or group responsible for the coverage of each division.

1. Fonthill, Ont. - Daniel Salisbury
2. Thorold, Ont. - Daniel Salisbury
3. Wilson, N.Y. - No Report
4. Middleport, N.Y. - Dr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde
5. Oak Orchard, N.Y. - David Thompson, Richard Gallery
6. Port Maitland, Ont. - Richard Freitag, Paul Nevergold
7. Lowbanks, Ont. - Edward Seeber, Ann Zutts, Robert Lipp, Robert Morris
8. Fort Erie, Ont. - Frank Folemsbee, Dr. R.L. Sommerville
9. Grand Island, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. Paul Benham, Paul Hess
10. Akron, N.Y. - David Thompson, Gertrude Webster, Richard Gallery, Nellie Karlak, Mr. and Mrs. Willard McKale, Cornelius Stumm
11. Buffalo, N.Y. - Dr. Arthur Freitag, Stanley J. Maciejewski, Joseph Kikta, Stephen Mazuchowski, Jeffrey Suita
12. Lancaster, N.Y. - Marie Wendling, Margaret Wendling, Gertrude Webster, Nellie Karlak, Mrs. Harry Schafer, Mrs. Fred Danner
13. Batavia, N.Y. - Mrs. O. L. Pixley, Mrs. Russel Annabal, George Mahaney, Don Thureau, David Thompson, George Buckland, Dr. and Mrs. R.M. Pixley.
14. Hamburg, N.Y. - Dr. Robert Andriele, Thomas Bourne, Mr. and Mrs.



- William Kraetz, Mr. Paul Haggard, Mr. Harold Dodge, Mrs. William J. Pruss, Mrs. John Bacon, Dr. T. R. Liston
15. Java, N.Y. - East Aurora Bird Club: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Reuther, Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Ruhl, Miss Thelma Pikett, Miss Edna Blowers, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lange, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Neischel, Mr. and Mrs. William Buddington, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Calkins, Mrs. Charles Reinhart, Mrs. Peter Loersch.
16. Angola, N.Y. - Frances Rew, Robert Rybcznski, James Braunberns, Mary Louise Emerson, Marjorie Emerson
17. Cattaraugus, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. David Bigelow, Miss Jean Russell, Miss Anna Russell
18. Delevan, N.Y. - Not covered.
19. Fillmore, N.Y. - Mrs. Katherine Palmer, Ada Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. Harland Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Smith
20. Dunkirk, N.Y. - Dr. and Mrs. Willard Stanley, Dr. Allen Benton, Richard Miga
21. Cherry Creek, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Mrs. Arthur Babath, Nina Bates, Caryl Belknap, Lois Buck, Ruth Ahrens, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Skillman, Calla and Jennie Freeman, Annabelle Hiller, Florence Hollister, Alvin Hoag, Ora Swanson, Laura Waterman.
22. Sherman, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Pillsbury, Clarence Beal, Bernice Gastol, Ora Swanson, Nina Bates, Lois Buck, Mary Hegeman, Mr. and Mrs. James Potter
23. Frewsburg, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Pillsbury, Robert Sundell, Jack, Bill and Dan Galvin, Annabelle Hiller, Ruth Ahrens, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Elderkin, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Patchen, Robert Hallquist, Archie Richardson
24. Allegany Park, N.Y. - Not covered.
25. Allegany, N.Y. - Dr. Stephen Eaton, Neil Saylor, Mr. and Mrs. John Forness, Gerald Haines, Mrs. Carlton Baker, Mr. and Mrs. George Nickles, Fred Meyer, Terry Moore, Harriett Long.
26. Cuba Lake, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. H. B. von Arnim, Fred Meyer, Larry Meyer, Rev. and Mrs. John Kimball, Maud Guilford, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Wilson
27. Bolivar, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Olmstead, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rulison, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cook, Mr. Gary Enderlee, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keople, Mrs. Lee Gross and family, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Carrier, Mrs. Sherman Childs, Mrs. Fred Bennett, Mrs. John Jacoby, Mrs. Annolee Triar, Mrs. Laura Hammond, Mrs. Gerald Wightman, Mrs. Pearl Cass, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richmond, Mrs. Lillian M. Simons, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. von Arnim, Mrs. Leo Ryan.
28. Alfred, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. Carl Burdick, Mrs. Bror Larson, Kenneth McClure, James Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Robert

Common, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Olmstead, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Pendleton, Edward Rayburn, Mrs. Walker Rayburn, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pitzrick, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Vossler, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Coats, Mrs. Paul Fuller, Mrs. Raymond Woodworth, Mrs. Neil Berhard, Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Foster, Mrs. Walter Schogoleff, Mrs. Robert Eisenhardt, Dr. H. O. Burdick, Mr. Marshall Howe, Dr. Gaylord Rough, Donald Gerace, Dr. and Mrs. Murray Rice, Dr. Clarence Klingensmith, Anne and Alfred Klingensmith.

The leader wishes to express his thanks to all who participated in the count. Particular thanks go to the Allegany County Bird Club, East Aurora Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society for their fine cooperation in their respective areas.

Joseph F. Thill

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#### CATTARAUGUS GROUP ANNOUNCES PROJECT

The Cattaraugus County Bird Study Group has become interested in the apparent destruction of our migratory birds at the various sites of radio and micro-wave towers which have sprung up in the past ten years.

This slaughter came to our attention through the work of Dr. Stephen Eaton of St. Bonaventure University. Last fall he conducted a survey of three towers in the Olean area. The alarming results showed us that a great number and variety of birds were being killed at these towers. If these three can be used as examples, then this number multiplied by the number of towers across the country would result in tens of thousands of our migratory birds being killed. We as a group feel that more work should be done concerning these kills and have undertaken as a club project, in conjunction with Dr. Eaton, the collection and correlation of data which could become available to our group. It is for this reason that we are requesting other groups to help us in this project.

Any group or individual desiring to help us in this project is asked to contact the Cattaraugus County Bird Study Group, in care of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Forness, 3086 Haskell Rd., R.D.#2, Cuba, New York.

We feel that this study can contribute greatly to the preservation of our bird life.

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#### NOTICE

The B.O.S. files contain about ten copies of each issue of The Prothonotary since its beginning. Occasionally someone asks for a copy to complete his set. Since several issues are in short supply or completely missing, such as those of January 1964 and June 1963, this is sometimes difficult.

If any member wishes to dispose of accumulated copies, will he please check with the librarian or the custodian of records to see if he has any numbers which are needed for our files.



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

No meetings in July or August

PROGRAMS - FIELD TRIPS

July 4 - Weekend trip to Michigan for Kirtland's Warbler. Details to be announded.

July 9 - Supper picnic at Timber Trails, Eden, N.Y.

July 17 - Shorebird Count. Leader, Dr. Robert Andrle.

July 31 - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Leader, Anna Mae Bacon.

Meet at University Plaza at 7:30 A.M.

Note: For further details regarding program, please contact Mr. David Bigelow

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NOTICE

Saturday morning bird walks will be held at 8:00 a.m. on the following mornings:

August 27 - Dr. Freitag  
September 3 - Ray Regone  
September 10 - Dr. Freitag  
September 17 - the Wendlings

September 24 - Sheldon Merritt  
October 1 - Dr. Freitag  
October 8 - Gertrude Webster

Walks will start at Rumsey and Windsor roads and will be in Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, Lancaster, N.Y. 14086. (NT4-5128)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

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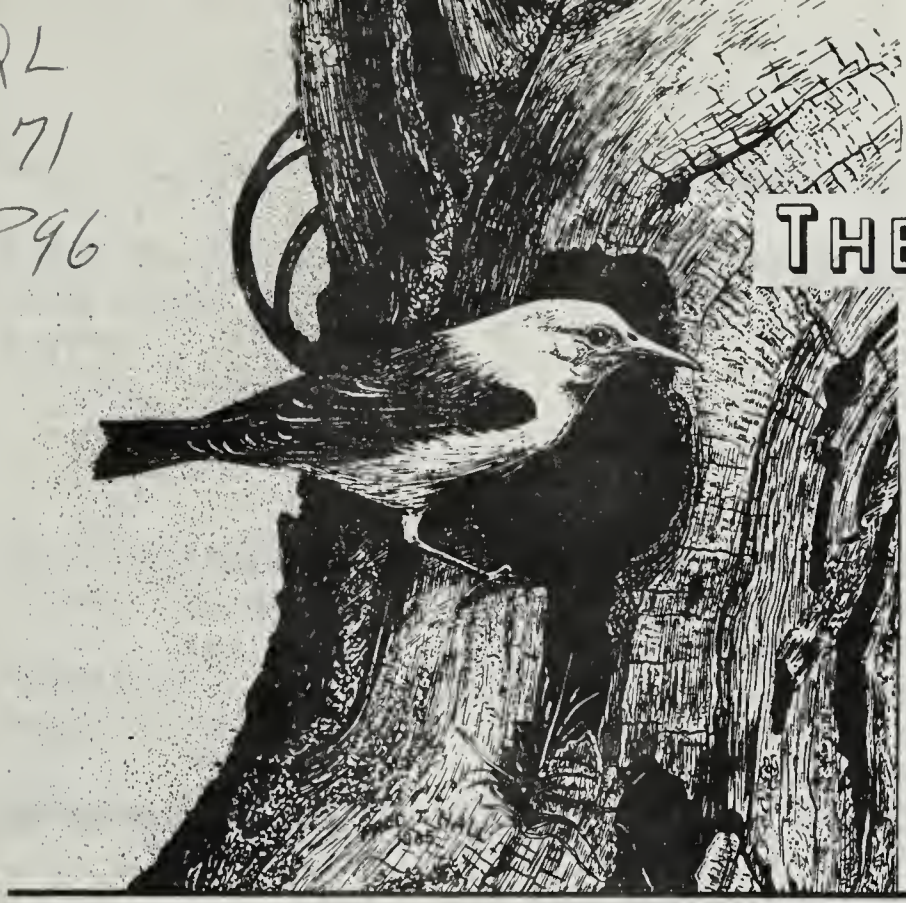


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# THE PROTHONOTARY



PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 32

June 1966

Number 6

## THE MONTH

Temperature in May was 2.6 degrees below normal, the weather being rather consistently cold the first thirteen days and the last three, and only slightly above the mean during most of the 15-day intervening period. The growth of vegetation was greatly retarded; at the end of the month lilacs in many localities had not yet begun to blossom and had barely started in most others. The rainfall, 1.36 inches, was 1.59 below normal for May. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

Landbird finding was poor throughout the month. Although migration was late, the days reported as best, Monday the 16th through Friday the 20th, occurred at about the usual time of peak landbird migration. Apparently the best day was the 17th. Because of the backward development of the foliage, finding such small birds as were present in trees and shrubbery was absurdly easy and unusually satisfying. Shorebirding was only fair, although there was an unprecedented number of 122 Short-billed Dowitchers counted by Clark on the 21st and a sudden large pile-up on the morning of the 31st which did not last long, however.

The Glossy Ibis and Kentucky Warbler were among the most interesting birds reported. The "Lawrence's Warbler" was apparently a backcross, resembling a Golden-wing except for "considerable yellow below the bib, and white wing-bars." - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.



NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year  
 F - indicates first record for the migration  
 L - indicates last record for the migration  
 (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	May	10	14 Cuba Lake	Burtens
	"	23	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	23	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Clark
	"	25	4 near Dunville, Ont.	Clark
	"	26L	14 South Cayuga, Ont.	Clark
Red-throated Loon	"	14	1 <u>Smiths Mills</u>	Benham
Horned Grebe	"	4	28 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
*Common Egret	"	5	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	"	9, 14	1 south Buffalo	Kikta et al
	"	26	1 Point Abino, Ont.	Clark
Least Bittern	"	21	1 Mud Lake, Ont.	Seeber et al
	"	27	1 North Evans	Bourne
* <u>Glossy Ibis</u>	"	1	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Hess, Grzybowski et al
Whistling Swan	May	17	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtell
	"	21	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Clark
Canada Goose	"	1	10000 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
Brant	"	11	29 near Evans Point, Ont.	Seeber et al
	"	14	40 Dunkirk	Benham
Gadwall	"	22	3 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham
Shoveller	May	1	4 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
	"	4	2 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	14	3 Cuba	Burtens
Redhead	"	26L	3 Long Beach, Ont.	Clark
Ring-necked Duck	"	14	4 Cuba Lake	Burtens
Canvasback	"	23	1 Times Beach, Buffalo	Kikta
Bufflehead	May	23L	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
Oldsquaw	"	26	2 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	A. Freitag
	"	30L	1 Pinecrest Point, Ont.	Mitchell, Greene
White-w. Scoter	"	22	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham
*Surf Scoter	"	8	8 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Wendlings
Ruddy Duck	"	1	5 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
Red-br. Merganser	"	17	2 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	3	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	24	1 Springbrook	Danner
Cooper's Hawk	"	7	1 Caneadea	Burtens
	"	29	1 Bannan Swamp, Wyo. Co.	Dodges
Red-sh. Hawk	"	5	1 over Eden	Bourne
Broad-winged Hawk	"	1	6 over Buffalo	Rybczynski
	"	5	3 over Eden	Bourne
	"	16	2 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	30	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells



Vol. 32, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Rough-l. Hawk	May	11L	2 Angelica	Burtens
Bald Eagle	"	25	1 over Lancaster (adult)	Grzybowski
Osprey	"	1	1 Sardinia	Andrles
	"	1-14	1-3 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	4	1,1 Fillmore, Transit	Burtens
	"	9	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	11	1 Belvidere	Burtens
Gray Partridge	"	28	2 Rainham Centre, Ont.	Clark
Turkey	"	20	1 Fluvanna	Pillsbury
	"	28	6 Allegany State Park	Benham, Grzybowski
*Semipalm. Plover	"	7	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Letchworths
Ruddy Turnstone	"	17	5 Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
	"	30	85 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Mitchell, Greene
*Whimbrel	May	17	20 Fort Erie, Ont.	Mitchell
	May	21	5 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Clark
	"	22	3 Long Beach, Ont.	Benham
	"	23	16 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Clark
	"	25	233 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Clark
	"	26	421 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Clark
	"	26	23 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	A. Freitag
	"	27	47 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Clark
	"	30	20 Bertie, Ont.	Benham
	"	30	8 Point Abino, Ont.	Mitchell, Greene
Solitary Sandp.	"	19	2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	21L	2 Riverside	Elderkin
*Willet	May	2	2 Hamburg	Bourne
Greater Yellowlegs	May	1	20 Kiantone	Pillsbury
	"	19L	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	17L	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
*Knot	"	30	15 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Mitchell, Greene
Pectoral Sandp.	"	1	50 Red Bird Corners	Elderkin
	"	3,4	50 Red Bird Corners	Pillsbury, Swanson
*Least Sandpiper	"	8F	2 West Almond	Olmstead
	"	9	1 Belmont	Burtens
Dunlin	"	19	222 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	A. Freitag
	"	21	562 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Clark
*Sh.-b. Dowitcher	May	14	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Hess et al
	May	17	5 Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
	"	21	122 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Clark
Semipalm. Sandp.	"	31	450 Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
Sanderling	"	22	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham
*Wilson's Phala.	May	7,8	1 Langford	Rochester
	May	7	1 Langford	Bourne
Great Bl.-b. Gull	May	30	3 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Mitchell, Greene
Caspian Tern	May	20	2 Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
	"	21	6 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Clark
	"	22	1 South Cayuga, Ont.	Clark, Schmidt
	"	22	3 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	"	26	1 Eden	Bourne
*Black-b. Cuckoo	"	14	1 Dunkirk	Benham
Long-eared Owl	"	28	1 Allegany State Park	Grzybowski, Benham
Short-eared Owl	"	11	2 Wainfleet Bog, Ont.	Seeber et al
*Com. Nighthawk	"	11	1 Buffalo	A. Freitag

Vol. 32, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

*R.-t. Hummingbird	May	2	1 Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	6	1 Lake View	Clark
"	"	6	1 Springbrook	Danner
Red-bel. Wdpkr.	"	1	2 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
"	"	1,2	2 Caneadea	Burton
"	"	7	1 Caneadea	Olmstead
"	"	27,31	1 Batavia	Buckland
Red-h. Wdpkr.	"	8	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	8	2 Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	25	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Clark
Y.-b. Sapsucker	"	18	1 Delaware Park, Buffalo	Axtell
"	"	19L	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	"	7	1 Caneadea	Olmstead
"	"	8	1 Bannan Swamp, Wyo. Co.	Dodges
Y.-b. Flycatcher	"	19	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Emerson
"	"	25	2 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
"	"	26	1 Lakeside Cemetery	Bourne
Traill's Flycatcher	"	16	2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	16	1 Frewsburg	Gulvin
*Least Flycatcher	"	1	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
"	"	6	1 Water Valley	Bourne
"	"	6	1 Frewsburg	Gulvin
*E. Wood Pewee	"	7	1 Caneadea	Burtens
"	"	11	1 Kiantone	Pillsbury
"	"	11	1 Angelica	Burtens
O.-s. Flycatcher	"	16	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Emerson
"	"	17,23	1 Buffalo	Kikta
"	"	20	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
"	"	27	1 Eden	Bourne
Blue Jay	"	6	3363 over Lake View	Clark
"	"	14	300 South Shore Lake Erie	Benham
Tufted Titmouse	"	20	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	1-21	2 Springbrook	Danner
"	"	5	1 Water Valley	Bourne
"	"	7	1 Thunder Bay, Ont.	Letchworths
"	"	7-20	1-2 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
"	"	10,17	1,1 Williamsville, Buffalo	Wendlings
"	"	10	1 Clarence	Wendlings
"	"	11-21	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
"	"	12	2 Delaware Park, Buffalo	A. Freitag
"	"	16-18	1-4 Lancaster	Grzybowski
Winter Wren	"	14	1 Batavia	Buckland
"	"	17	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings
"	"	17	1 Eden	Bourne
Carolina Wren	"	16	1 Hamburg	Bourne
*S.-b. Marsh Wren	"	21	1 near Clymer	Pillsbury
"	"	30	1 Eden	Bourne
Mockingbird	"	1	1 over Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
"	"	27	1 near Ashville	Pillsbury
Wood Thrush	"	5	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Hermit Thrush	"	26	1 Niece Rd., Sherbrooke	A. Freitag
*Swainson's Thrush	"	4,7	1 Caneadea	Burtens



Vol. 32, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Gray-ch. Thrush	May	19	2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	25-31	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	27	1 Fluvanna	Pillsbury
*Veery	"	9,10	10,15 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	10	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	10	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Eastern Bluebird	"	1	1 Wellsville	Burtens
	"	1-31	1-4 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	14	1 Belvidere	Burtens
	"	20	2 Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	"	12	2 Taylor Hollow	Rochester, Creighton
	"	17-20	1 Buffalo	Kikta
Golden-cr. Kinglet	"	12	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	A. Freitag
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	"	21	1 Buffalo	A. Freitag
	"	21	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
	"	23	1 Buffalo	Rybczynski et al
Water Pipit	May	9	15 Langford	Rochester, Creighton
	"	9	1 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
Loggerhead Shrike	"	1	1 Orchard Park	Danner
*Yel-thr. Vireo	"	4	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	13	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
*Solitary Vireo	"	8	1 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Wendlings
	"	10	1 Hamburg	Bourne
*Red-eyed Vireo	"	8	1 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Wendlings
Philadelphia Vireo	"	17	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	18-22	1-2 Springbrook	Danner
	"	19	1 Water Valley	Bourne
	"	20	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
	"	20	1 Fluvanna	Pillsbury
	"	29	1 Delaware Park, Buffalo	A. Freitag
*Warbling Vireo	"	3	1 near Greenhurst	Pillsbury, Swanson
	"	6	2 Lake View	Clark
	"	6	1 Frewsburg	Gulvin
	"	6	2 Springbrook	Danner
*Golden-w. Warbler	"	8	1 Gowanda	Seeber et al
*Blue-w. Warbler	"	6	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
	"	6	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	7	1 Frewsburg	Gulvin
*"Brewster's" Warb.	"	8	1 Gowanda	Seeber et al
	"	18	1 West Barrie	Benham
*"Lawrence's" Warb.	"	11	1 Alfred	Howe
*Tennessee Warbler	"	5	3 Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag
*Orange-cr. Warbler	"	7	1 Caneadea	Burtens
	"	12	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	A. Freitag
	"	16	2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	24	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Nashville Warbler	"	3	2 Dunkirk	Pillsbury, Swanson
*Parula Warbler	"	5	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	16	1 Alfred	Howe
	"	17	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	18	1 Delaware Park, Buffalo	Axtell
	"	19	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Benham

Vol. 32, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

*Magnolia Warbler	May	7	1 Belmont	Burtens
*Cape May Warbler	"	8	1 Canadian Shore Lake Erie	Wendlings
	"	11	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
*Bl.-thr. Bl. Warb.	"	9	1 Eden	Bourne
Myrtle Warbler	"	5-30	1-15 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	16	60 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	23	1 Alfred	Klingensmith, et al
	"	23,24	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Cerulean Warbler	"	1	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Seeber et al
*Blackbur. Warbler	"	5	1 Springbrook	Danner
	"	6	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
*Chest.-s. Warbler	"	7	1 Belmont	Burtens
	"	8	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Bay-br. Warbler	"	16	4 Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Blackpoll Warbler	"	12	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	16	1 Alfred	Klingensmith et al
Pine Warbler	May	1	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta, Rybczynski
*Prairie Warbler	May	17	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Benham
	"	19	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Emerson
Palm Warbler	"	5	1 South Park, Buffalo	Dodges
	"	19	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	22	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Clark
*Ovenbird	"	10	1 Wellsville	Burtens
	"	11	1 Angelica	Burtens
*Kentucky Warbler	"	21	1 Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Hess et al
*Connecticut Warb.	May	19	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Mourning Warbler	May	13	1 Fluvanna	Pillsbury
*Yellowthroat	"	7	3 Frewsburg	Gulvin
	"	9	1 Belmont	Burtens
*Hooded Warbler	"	8	1 Gowanda	Seeber et al
Wilson's Warbler	"	17	1 Eden	Bourne
*Canada Warbler	"	13	1 Fluvanna	Pillsbury
*American Redstart	"	6	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	8	2 Hamburg	Rochester, Firey
Bobolink	"	16	240 over Lancaster	Grzybowski
Western Meadowlark	"	3	1 Center Rd., Sheridan	Pillsbury, Swanson
	"	22	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham
	"	28	1 Wainfleet Bog, Ont.	Clark
Orchard Oriole	"	24	1 near Lowbanks, Ont.	Webster et al
*Baltimore Oriole	"	1	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
	"	1	1 Springbrook	Danner
	"	6	2 Scio	Burtens
	"	6	2 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	6	22 over Lake View	Clark
Rusty Blackbird	"	14	2 Belmont	Burtens
*Scarlet Tanager	"	3	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Rose-br. Grosbeak	"	4	3 Batavia	Buckland
	"	6	2 Thunder Bay, Ont.	Letchworths
*Indigo Bunting	"	6	1 Thunder Bay, Ont.	Letchworths
	"	12	3 Wellsville	Burtens
Evening Grosbeak	"	1	20 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	1-6	1 Belmont (f)	Olmstead
	"	1-15	1-10 Frewsburg (f)	Gulvin
	"	1-18	10 Alfred	Klingensmith et al



Vol. 32, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (cont)

Evening Grosbeak	May	1-19L	9	Jamestown	Elderkin
"	"	3	2	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	5-19L	3-6	Springbrook	Danner
"	"	6-18	1-2	Belmont	Burtions
"	"	9	50	Wellsville	Burtions
"	"	10	50	Belmont	Olmstead
"	"	11	1	Cuba	Burtions
"	"	17	7	East Aurora	Benham
"	"	19L	1	Hamburg (f)	Andrle
Pine Siskin	"	6-23L	1-15	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
"	"	8	12	Hamburg	Bourne
"	"	10	4	North Boston	Dodges
"	"	17	20	Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	21	50	Findley Lake	Elderkin
"	"	21	100	near Clymer	Pillsbury
Red Crossbill	"	4,6	8,10	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
"	"	9	8	Wellsville	Burtions
"	"	25,30L	10	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
White-w. Crossbill	"	18,25	3	Frewsburg	Gulvin
White-cr. Sparrow	"	23	1	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
"	"	25L	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
White-thr. Sparrow	"	20	2	Fluvanna	Pillsbury
"	"	21	1	Buffalo	A. Freitag
*Lincoln's Sparrow	"	9-14	1	Belmont (f)	Burtions et al
"	"	11,16	1	Alfred	Klingensmith et al
"	"	17,18	1	Delaware Park, Buffalo	Axtell
"	"	18	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
"	"	19L	1	South Park, Buffalo	Dodges
"	"	19L	2	Lancaster	Grzybowski

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded:	182
Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded this issue:	68
Total for 1966:	250

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STATISTICIANS' NOTES

1. The Statisticians will be glad to explain why any particular verification write-up was rejected if asked in the Humboldt Room immediately before or after a Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting (or by letter from out-of-town members), and they will welcome discussion of the verification system of the Society at any time.

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NEST RECORDS REQUESTED

This year as in past years The Prothonotary will publish nesting records of species nesting in the B.O.S. territory. Since these will be published in the late summer issues, it is imperative that these records be submitted to the compiler as soon as possible. All members are encouraged to participate in this worthwhile project.

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESReport of the May Bird CountDate: May 15, 1966

Weather Conditions: The weather was generally fair, sunny, and cool, several observers simply reporting it as perfect. Temperatures ranged from 40 degrees to 70 degrees in the northern areas and from 32 degrees to 65 degrees in the southern. Canadian and some Southern Tier territories had overcast skies in the afternoon, and Area 1 had a brief shower. Winds were variable, light to moderate.

Species Recorded: Figures in parenthesis indicate division numbers where the species was observed when it was recorded in three or fewer divisions. An asterisk (\*) preceding the name of a species indicates the first record for the year. Underlined common names indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Loons - Mergansers:

Common Loon	7	American Widgeon	30
Horned Grebe	15	Shoveler	7
Pied-billed Grebe	21	Wood Duck	99
Double-cr. Cormorant	2 (5,6)	Redhead	1 (22)
Great Blue Heron	100	Ring-necked Duck	5 (11,26,28)
Green Heron	114	Greater Scaup	22 (1,5,8)
Bl-cr. Night Heron	5 (5,11,24)	Lesser Scaup	112
*Least Bittern	3 (22,27,28)	Common Goldeneye	12 (6,9)
American Bittern	50	Bufflehead	202
Canada Goose	92	Oldsquaw	26 (1,8,12)
Mallard	282	Surf Scoter	5 (7,13)
Black Duck	86	Ruddy Duck	2 (7)
Gadwall	5 (5,6)	Hooded Merganser	6 (18, 23)
Pintail	7 (5,7)	Common Merganser	20 (2,8,27)
Green-winged Teal	12	Red-br. Merganser	23
Blue-winged Teal	130		

Vultures - Rails:

Turkey Vulture	48	Sparrow Hawk	57
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2 (2,27)	Ruffed Grouse	43
Cooper's Hawk	7	Ring-necked Pheasant	239
Red-tailed Hawk	117	*Gray Partridge	10 (1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	26	Turkey	3 (26,27)
Broad-winged Hawk	15	Virginia Rail	1 (7)
Rough-legged Hawk	1 (13)	Sora	11
Bald Eagle	1 (5)	Common Gallinule	15
Marsh Hawk	13	American Coot	42
Osprey	9		



Plovers - Terns:

Semipalmated Plover	19	Least Sandpiper	50
Killdeer	454	Dunlin	148 (6,7,28)
*Black-b. Plover	3 (8,9)	Semipal. Sandpiper	2 (22,23)
*Ruddy Turnstone	53	*Sanderling	9 (6)
American Woodcock	38	Great Black-b. Gull	1 (7)
Common Snipe	59	Herring Gull	431
Upland Plover	38	Ring-billed Gull	6236
Spotted Sandpiper	244	Bonaparte's Gull	55
Solitary Sandpiper	36	Common Tern	471
Greater Yellowlegs	5 (13,14,25)	Caspian Tern	7 (6,7)
Lesser Yellowlegs	9	Black Tern	188
Pectoral Sandpiper	6 (6,8)		

Doves - Swallows:

Mourning Dove	565	Red-bellied Woodpecker	3 (5,13)
*Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1 (25)	Red-h. Woodpecker	41
Black-billed Cuckoo	3 (3,12,25)	Yellow-b. Sapsucker	41
Screech Owl	4 (12,15,28)	Hairy Woodpecker	71
Great Horned Owl	5 (1,18,27)	Downy Woodpecker	258
Barred Owl	19	Eastern Kingbird	290
Short-eared Owl	1 (22)	Gr.Crested Flycatcher	33
Whip-poor-will	1 (28)	Eastern Phoebe	270
Common Nighthawk	4 (26,27)	*Yellow-b.Flycatcher	1 (25)
Chimney Swift	649	*Traill's Flycatcher	4 (10,18,28)
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	22	Least Flycatcher	152
Belted Kingfisher	130	East. Wood Pewee	15
Yellow-sh. Flicker	1001	*Olive-s. Flycatcher	1 (27)
Pileated Woodpecker	18		

Jays - Starlings:

H. Lark ( <u>praticola</u> )	174	Mockingbird	4 (23,27,28)
Tree Swallow	1197	Catbird	877
Bank Swallow	1189	Brown Thrasher	381
Rough-wing. Swallow	230	Robin	6349
Barn Swallow	2164	Wood Thrush	387
Cliff Swallow	110	Hermit Thrush	17
Purple Martin	1126	Swainson's Thrush	26
Blue Jay	1078	*Gray-cheeked Thrush	4 (12,27)
Common Crow	1745	Veery	189
Black-cap.Chickadee	814	Eastern Bluebird	56
Tufted Titmouse	3 (14)	Blue-g. Gnatcatcher	11
White-br. Nuthatch	246	Golden-cr. Kinglet	27
Red-br. Nuthatch	62	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	337
Brown Creeper	22	Water Pipit	15
House Wren	353	Cedar Waxwing	75
Winter Wren	5 (1,3,13)	Loggerhead Shrike	1 (21)
*Long-b. Marsh Wren	19	Starling	17,036

Vireos - Warblers:

Yellow-thr. Vireo	12	Cerulean Warbler	3 (7,16)
Solitary Vireo	10	Blackburnian Warbler	76
Red-eyed Vireo	21	Yellow-thr. Warbler	1 (28)
*Philadelphia Vireo	2 (16,27)	Chestnut-s. Warbler	66
Warbling Vireo	48	*Bay-breasted Warbler	1 (12)
Black-&-wh. Warbler	70	Blackpoll Warbler	2 (25,28)
Golden-w. Warbler	1 (16)	Palm Warbler	22
Blue-w. Warbler	33	Ovenbird	144
Tennessee Warbler	8 (14,24,28)	Northern Waterthrush	9
Orange-cr. Warbler	2 (11,14)	Louisiana Waterthrush	9 (13,24,25)
Nashville Warbler	82	Mourning Warbler	10
Parula Warbler	1 (28)	Yellowthroat	288
Yellow Warbler	1701	*Yellow-br. Chat	1 (26)
Magnolia Warbler	24	Hooded Warbler	18
Cape May Warbler	7 (19,22,28)	*Wilson's Warbler	1 (28)
Black-thr. B. Warbler	24	Canada Warbler	15
Myrtle Warbler	407	American Redstart	173
Black-thr. G. Warbler	121		

House Sparrows - Fringillids:

House Sparrow	5300	American Goldfinch	2456
Bobolink	859	White-w. Crossbills	2 (26,28)
Eastern Meadowlark	1305	Rufous-s. Towhee	494
Western Meadowlark	1 (2)	Savannah Sparrow	313
Red-w. Blackbird	13,675	Grasshopper Sparrow	7
*Orchard Oriole	1 (8)	Henslow's Sparrow	15
Baltimore Oriole	434	Vesper Sparrow	142
Rusty Blackbird	81	Slate-colored Junco	217
Common Grackle	10,542	<u>Tree Sparrow</u>	1 (16)
Brown-h. Cowbird	2474	Chipping Sparrow	1487
Scarlet Tanager	24	Field Sparrow	641
Cardinal	441	White-cr. Sparrow	556
Rose-br. Grosbeak	324	White-thr. Sparrow	351
Indigo Bunting	26	Fox Sparrow	21
Evening Grosbeak	218	Lincoln Sparrow	4
Purple Finch	156	Swamp Sparrow	232
Pine Siskin	51	Song Sparrow	3586

Unidentified:

Hawks	2
Gulls	250

GRAND TOTAL: 203 species; about 100,686 individuals

Comments and Comparisons: "If only yesterday had been like today," wrote Harriette Klabunde when she sent in her May Census list of birds on Monday, May 16. "There are warblers all over the trees, the thrushes are singing, and Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are here. Yesterday it was almost impossible to find them."



How well she was voicing what we were all thinking. May 15 was pleasant enough - bright, sunny, clear, with a high of 65 degrees and little wind. But the weeks before had not encouraged the birds to migrate north in any numbers. Even the two fairly good previous nights had not yet brought them in, but during the night of the 15th aerial traffic must have been heavy. Suddenly on the morning of the 16th the birds were here and they kept coming for several days and nights as if to make up for lost time.

As might be expected, the birds which leave ordinarily in late April and early May were here for the Count in some numbers. Waterfowl were plentiful, many being reported in highest numbers ever - Canada Geese, 92; Mallards, 282; Gadwall, 5; Green-winged Teal, 12, and Blue-winged, 130 (103 in 1949); Wood Ducks, 99; Buffleheads, 202; Surf Scoters, 5 (reported only once before in 1946), and Hooded Mergansers, 6 (highest in the ten times they have been reported since 1935). Only three times before have Horned Grebe numbered more than the 15 that were recorded.

Another unusual record was that of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, whose number stands at 92, its usually being two or three. Brown Creepers, 22 (10 in 1962 and 1965), and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 41 (21 in 1961), were the most numerous ever. Pine Siskins, frequently absent from the list, numbered 54, Golden-crowned Kinglets, 27 (average number 5), Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 337 (74 in 1948), Palm Warblers, much higher than usual but not highest, Purple Finch, 156 (87 in 1965, and Evening Grosbeaks, which now stay into the summer, 218 (87 in 1965). White-winged Crossbills, 2, and Tree Sparrows have each been reported only once before. Fox Sparrows, 21, were reported at an all-time high; there were never more than two in the four times they have been reported. White-throated Sparrows, 351, have been more numerous only once (591 in 1945, and White-crowned Sparrows were more abundant than usual.

In contrast, birds that normally arrive after May 1 made a poor showing. Shore birds were generally low in number and variety, although Sanderlings arrived on time, and others who arrive early (Solitary Sandpipers, 36; Upland Plovers, 38, and Killdeer, 454) were at their largest number ever, while Spotted Sandpipers at 244 were close to the previous high of 276 in 1951. Surprisingly, Turnstones at 53 were close to their previous high, 56 in 1949. Cuckoos were hard to find - 1 Yellow-billed and 3 Blackbilled were counted. Nighthawks, 4; Great-crested Flycatcher, 33; Wood Peewee, 15, and even Red-eyed Vireo, 21 (426 in 1955 and usually in the hundreds) were way down. Warblers, with the exception of the Yellow, 1701 (1900 in 1951), and Myrtle, 407 (572 in 1956), were exceptionally low: 1 Bay-breasted, 2 Blackpoll, 66 Chestnut-sided (231 in 1965, 8 Tennessee, 1 Wilson's, and 10 Mourning (46 last year). Northern Waterthrush numbers were down, but surprisingly Louisianas were up, both at 9. Indigo Buntings, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows were very low, while Scarlet Tanagers, 24, have been lower only once before.

In further contrast, most resident birds, with the exception of those that normally arrive fairly late, were in good numbers. Gulls and terns were plentiful, though only the non-resident Caspian Tern, 7, was high (only 9 times on the list; previous high, 4 in 1936). Birds of prey



were present in normal numbers. At their highest ever were Red-tails, 117 (35 in 1956 and 1965); Sparrow Hawks, 57 (42 in 1950); and Turkey Vultures, 48 (44 in 1965).

A number of species attained their second highest number, including American Bittern, Turkey Vulture, 48 (49) in 1941), Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Hairy Woodpecker, Chickadee, House Wren, Catbird, 877 (891 in 1965), Veery, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Savannah Sparrow, 313 (640 in 1950). Occurring in their second highest numbers were the Goldfinches, which appeared in large flocks in some areas, but were almost totally absent in other areas. They were, however, only 50 behind the all-time high, 2504, in 1965.

As might be expected by any observer, blackbirds continue their increase, now in five figures: Red-wings, 13,675 (up from 8093 in 1965; 2757 in 1950); Grackles, 10,542 (up from 6300 in 1960; 1575 in 1955); Cowbirds, 2474 (up from 1713 in 1965 and 721 in 1955); Starlings, 17,036 (12,636 in 1965; 3622 in 1955).

There were several heartening records too. The Great Blue Heron seems to be recovering its numbers and Bluebirds to be holding their own. Neither is back to its former good numbers, but both are improving. A Bald Eagle was reported for the first time since 1960. Turkeys were reported for the fourth straight year, and the Gray Partridge is back after an absence of ten years. New to the list is the Yellow-throated Warbler, one of which was recorded. One unhappy fact is the lack of a Prothonotary Warbler for the fourth year in a row.

Sectional Divisions and Observers: The following divisions are those defined by the map "Sectional Divisions of the Territory of the Buffalo Ornithological Society" (1956). The list gives the number of each division and the name of a place in that division. Underlined names denote the individuals or group responsible for the coverage of each division. 26 of the 28 divisions were covered by a total of about 208 observers.

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Fonthill, Ont.      | - <u>Walter and Harriette Klabunde</u>   |
| 2. Thorold, Ont.       | - <u>Fred and Dan Salisbury</u>  |
| 3. Wilson, N.Y.        | - <u>Paul and Mary Benham</u>  |
| 4. Middleport, N.Y.    | - not covered  |
| 5. Oak Orchard, N.Y.   | - <u>Ed Seeber, A. Zuris</u>   |
| 6. Port Maitland, Ont. | - <u>Ed Williams</u>   |
| 7. Lowbanks, Ont.      | - <u>Harold Mitchell</u> , Gregory Hammond, Sheldon Merritt, Dr. Stuart Vaughan, A. J. Wright  |
| 8. Ft. Erie, Ont.      | - <u>Mary Louise Emerson</u> , Harold and Rachel Axtell, Jim Braunburns, Marjorie Emerson, George and Mary Elizabeth Letchworth, Dr. R. E. Partridge   |
| 9. Grand Island, N.Y.  | - <u>John McCormick</u> , Edwin Mabbette, Charles McCormick  |
| 10. Akron, N.Y.        | - <u>Richard Freitag</u> , Paul Nevergold  |
| 11. Buffalo, N.Y.      | - <u>Dr. Arthur Freitag</u> , Joe Gryzbowski, Joseph Kikta, Stanley Maciejewski, Robert Rybczynski, Gregory Swiatek, Theodore Swiatek  |
| 12. Lancaster, N.Y.    | - <u>Gertrude Webster</u> , Joe Grzybowski, Ima Bill, Mrs. Dorothy Danner, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Forsberg, Nellie Karlak, Howard and Lucille Reuther, Mrs. Harry Schafer, Norman Schuller, Cy Wolfling |



13. Batavia, N.Y. - Mrs. O. L. Pixley, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Annabel, George Buckland, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Graney, George Mahaney, Mr. and Mrs. Max Mason, Dr. and Mrs. R. M. Pixley, Gail Seamans, David Thompson, Don Thurau
14. Hamburg, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Bourne, Helen Creighton, Wilma Csont, Polly Pruss, Cordelia Ramsdell, Mrs. J. E. Brown, Paul Mauser, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Matlock
15. Java, N.Y. - Anna Mae Bacon, John Bacon, Russell and Marie Bonser, Drs. Thomas and Lucille Liston, Bernice and Charles Reinhardt, Lynn Rochester, Harold Henzler
16. Angola, N.Y. - Marie and Margaret Wendling, Frances Rew, Katrina Schwenger, Richard and Gretchen Stevenson
17. Cattaraugus, N.Y. - David and Dee Bigelow, Fred Hall and family
18. Delevan, N.Y. - Alice and Ed Ulrich, Don and Jane Clark, Harold Freund
19. Fillmore, N.Y. - Mrs. Katherine Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Boon, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hooper, Mrs. Amy Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Sandford
20. Dunkirk, N.Y. - not reported
21. Cherry Creek, N.Y. - Clarence Beal, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Elderkin, Calla and Jennie Freeman, Alvin Hoag, Florence Hollister, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Patchin, Laura Waterman
22. Sherman, N.Y. - Ora Swanson, Corl Belnap, Nina Bates, Lois Buck, Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Burgeson, Bernice Gastol, Elizabeth Pillsbury, Katherine Ponton, Mrs. Robert Sutphen
23. Frewsburg, N.Y. - Annabelle Hiller, Ruth Ahrens, Mr. and Mrs. F. Elderkin, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Findley, Jack Gulvin, Florence Jones, Archie Richardson, Robert Sundell
24. Allegany State Park - David Thompson, Charles Downey, Jr.
25. Allegany, N.Y. - John Forness, Mrs. Carlton Baker, Dr. Stephen Eaton, Mary Forness, Gerald Haines, Lila Jetty, Harriett Lange, Fred Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Frosser, Neal Saylor
26. Cuba Lake, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton, Christine Bliss, Alice Driscoll, Mrs. Guy Ingalls, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keople, Mrs. John Kimball, Mr. and Mrs. James Mullane, Mrs. Oren Smith, Mrs. Helen Wilson
27. Bolivar, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Smith, Mrs. Fred Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Carrier, Mrs. Sherman Childs, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keople, Mrs. Lee Grass, Frank O'Brien
28. Alfred, N.Y. - Mrs. Carl Burdick, Mrs. Bror Larson, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. McClure, Wilfred Brandes, Mrs. Neil Bernard, Mrs. Raymond Woodworth, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Coats, Paul Fuller, Mary Alice Fuller, Mrs. Olive Graves, Ralph Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Pendleton, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pitzrick, Mrs. Douglas Reynolds,

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Vossler, Edward Rayburn, Dana Young, Ed Olmstead, Eva Ford, Helen Thomas, L. A. Deverell, Dr. Peter Finlay, Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Foster, Marshall Howe, Dr. Clarence Klingensmith, Dr. Gaylord Rough, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Ulmer, James Smith, Mrs. Robert Common, Mrs. Claire Backus, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McClure

There were 42 more observers than last year - resulting, of course, in better coverage. In spite of the scarcity of many birds that had not yet arrived, our total number of individuals moved up into six figures for the first time. The number of species too was the highest ever recorded in spite of the lack of several species usually found on the May Census. Marie A. Wendling.

#### NOTES AND NEWS

Recent issues of The Condor contained articles by members of the B.O.S. The recent May-June issue had an article, The Curlew Sandpiper in Ontario, by Robert Andrle and Harold Axtell. In the March-April issue Robert Andrle reported some of his observations in Mexico in a longer article, North American Migrants in Sierra de Tuxla of Southern Veracruz, Mexico. The Condor can be found on the magazine shelves in the Museum Library.

#### NOTICE

Saturday morning bird walks will be held at 8:00 a.m. on the following mornings:

August 27 - Dr. Freitag  
September 3 - Ray Regone  
September 10 - Dr. Freitag  
September 17 - the Wendlings

September 24 - Sheldon Merritt  
October 1 - Dr. Freitag  
October 8 - Gertrude Webster

Walks will start at Rumsey and Windsor roads and will be in Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery.



## PROGRAM - MEETINGS

No meetings scheduled in August.

September 14 - 8 p.m. Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science -  
Summer birding experiences of members.

September 28 - Regular meeting - Program to be announced.

## PROGRAMS - FIELD TRIPS

August 21 - Canadian Shore for shorebirds. Leader, Gertrude Webster  
(TF37768). Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the  
Peace Bridge at 7 a.m.

August 27 - Joint trip with the Jamestown Audubon Society. Meet at  
University Plaza at 7:30 a.m. or in the parking lot in  
back of the Mayville Courthouse at 10 a.m. Leaders,  
Margaret & Marie Wendling (NF26625).

Note: Trip will visit area sanctuaries, Chautauqua Lake and  
Allen Street Roost at dusk so plan to stay late. Take  
lunch and table service. J.A.S. will serve a tureen  
supper.

September 3 - North shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shore birds.  
Leader, Richard Byron. Meet at Vermont Street entrance  
to Peace Bridge at 7:00 a.m.

September 17-18 - Hawk watch at St. Thomas, Ontario. Leaders, Walter  
and Harriette Klabunde (PL4-4424). Contact the leaders  
if you are planning to go.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the  
following month to the Compiler: Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive,  
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 (NT4-5128)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde,  
4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

BACK ISSUES: Available at \$.15 per copy from the Treasurer.

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Editor: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301





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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 32

July 1966

Number 7

## THE MONTH

Although June was unusually warm, with the mean temperature 2.6 degrees above the long-term average, the cold weather of May produced such a decided trend toward slow vegetational development that flowering and fruiting of plants continued to be retarded one to three weeks throughout June. The appearance of various kinds of insects was equally late, and the several species that it was possible to observe failed to achieve their usual abundance at any time. Although June is normally our driest month, this year should make for high nesting success in ground-nesting birds. There were more than the average number of somewhat unusual bird records during the month, the four Piping Plovers seen together at Hamburg Town Park being the most exceptional observation. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Common Loon	June	2-30	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
Great Blue Heron	"	18	40 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Benham
B.-c. Night Heron	"	9	1 Lake View	Bourne
	"	9, 25	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	15	3 Tifft St., Buffalo	Kikta
	"	26	1 Cheektowaga	Grzybowskis
Least Bittern	"	30	1 Tifft St., Buffalo	Kikta
Green-w. Teal	"	28	13 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein
Amer. Widgeon	"	1, 2	2, 3 Erie Beach, Ont.	Freitag
	"	18	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Benham
Com. Goldeneye	"	28	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein
Bufflehead	June	30	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Ruddy Duck	June	18	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Benham
Hooded Merganser	"	10	2 Alfred	Klingensmith
Common Merganser	"	2	2 Yacht Harbor, Ont	Freitag
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	20	1 Hamburg	Bourne



Broad-winged Hawk	June	4	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
Osprey	"	2	1	Belmont	Burtons
	June	13	1	Scio	Burton
Bobwhite	June	18	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Benham
*Piping Plover	"	30	4	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne, Csont et al
Semipal. Plover	"	2L	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
Black-bel. Plover	"	1L	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Grzybowski
Ruddy Turnstone	"	1,2 165	159	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Freitag
	"	3	12	Athol Springs	Bourne
	June	28L	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein
Common Snipe	June	28	5	Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein
Whimbrel	"	1	46	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski
Upland Plover	"	21	16	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	4	1	Springbrook	Danner
	"	28F	9	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein
	"	30	36	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein, Burger
Knot	"	1L	8	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski
*White-r. Sandpiper	"	1	9	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski
Least Sandpiper	"	1L	17	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski
	June	28F	3	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
	June	30	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Dunlin	"	1,2 80	54	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Freitag
S.-b. Dowitcher	June	1L	1	Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
	June	30F	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein
Semipal. Sandp.	June	1	290	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski
	"	16L	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Bonaparte's Gull	"	30	27	Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
Caspian Tern	"	28	4	Rockhouse-Grant Pt., Ont.	Brownstein
Whip-poor-will	"	5	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	28	2	McCarty Hill	Grzybowski et al
(carrying food)					
Brown Creeper	June	11	1	Long Beach Woods, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
S.-b. Marsh Wren	"	16	1	Wainfleet Bog, Ont.	Grzybowski
Mockingbird	"	20-24	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	"	28	1	Taylor Hollow	Grzybowski et al
G.-cr. Kinglet	June	28	1	McCarty Hill	Grzybowski et al
Solitary Vireo	June	11	1	Long Beach Woods, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
Myrtle Warbler	June	8,15	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
Blackpoll Warbler	June	2L	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Connecticut Warb.	June	3	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
W. Meadowlark	June	11	2	Wainfleet Bog, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
	"	16	2	Wainfleet Bog, Ont.	Grzybowski
	June	28	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein

Species previously recorded this year:

249

Additional species recorded this issue:

2

Total for 1966

251



## Breeding Bird Survey of Long Beach Woods,

Wainfleet Township, Ontario

On June 11, 1966, from 7:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Joseph F. Thill and I carried out a census of the Long Beach woods, which is located about one mile north of the Lake Erie shore and about 1.8 miles northeast of Lowbanks, Ontario. The tract covers about 50 acres and is approximately 578 feet above sea level. This woods is unusual for the lake plain in the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario, in that it contains many medium-to-large sized hemlocks, some forming dense groves on hummocks chiefly in the northern half. Other than the Hemlocks and a few White Pines, the woodland is composed of deciduous trees, principally Maple, Beech, Elm, Ash, and Basswood. Several elongated, shallow pools bordered by shrubs and herbaceous plants of varying density and height occur mostly in the northern portion. The interior shrub understory is generally rather sparse, however, and is largely nonexistent on the hummocks beneath the evergreens.

A list follows of the 28 bird species recorded. They are arranged in order of abundance with the number of individuals of each seen and heard during the survey. An "FE" after a species name indicates that most individuals of that species were found at the forest edge or just within the woods border. A "V" indicates those species which were probably visitants in the woodland. All other species were noted essentially in the forest interior.

Yellow Warbler FE	9	Amer. Goldfinch V	3
Song Sparrow FE	9	Traill's Flycatcher FE	2
Robin	6	Gr. Crested Flycatcher	2
House Wren FE	5	Starling	2
Catbird FE	5	Cardinal	2
Red-winged Blackbird FE	5	Hairy Woodpecker	1
Brown-headed Cowbird V	5	Downy Woodpecker	1
Common Grackle V	5	Blue Jay	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	4	Black-capped Chickadee	1
Red-eyed Vireo	4	Brown Creeper	1
Baltimore Oriole V	4	Veery	1
Red-eyed Towhee FE	4	Solitary Vireo	1
Mourning Dove	3	Yellowthroat FE	1
E. Wood Pewee	3	House Sparrow V	1

Of interest was the fact that only two species of warblers were recorded. This seems to be a rather low number considering the character of the woodland. The Brown Creeper and Solitary Vireo were noteworthy, especially the latter, which normally occurs in hilly, upland terrain in the region. Apparently this is the first time these species have been reported during the nesting season in the Ontario section of the Buffalo Ornithological Society territory.

It is also interesting to compare this survey with the census taken in a woods on the Ontario Plain, N.Y. (Andrle, Prothonotary, 1963, 29:67-68), where there is some similarity in habitat to the Long Beach area - mixed hemlock and deciduous woodland and shallow pools. The Ontario Plain tract had an average density of 2.3 individuals observed per acre, the Long Beach woods, only 1.8. Possibly the larger size, 95 acres, the denser and proportionately more extensive understory, and the greater area and diversity of

of successional habitat types of the former partially account for this difference in abundance. Of the six most numerous species in the Ontario Plain woods, all are interior forest species except one, whereas five of the six most common in the Long Beach woods are essentially forest edge species. The four interior forest species most abundant in the Ontario Plain tract - Red-eyed Vireo, Black-capped Chickadee, Eastern Wood Pewee, and Wood Thrush - were poorly represented or absent (Wood Thrush) in the Long Beach woods. Further censuses of both areas and of other woodlands in the vicinity of each might yield additional interesting data and permit some conclusions to be drawn.

Robert F. Andrie  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
Buffalo, N.Y.

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PROGRAM - MEETINGS

September 14 - 8 p.m. Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science -  
Summer birding experiences of members.

September 28 - Regular meeting - Program to be announced.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

August 21 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for shorebirds. Leader, Gertrude Webster (TF3-7768). Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 7 a.m.

August 27 - Joint trip with the Jamestown Audubon Society. Meet at the University Plaza at 7:30 a.m. or in the parking lot in back of the Mayville Courthouse at 10 a.m. Leaders, Margaret and Marie Wendling (NF2-6625). See June issue for further details.

September 3 - Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shore birds. Leader, Richard Byron. Meet at Vermont Street entrance to Peace Bridge at 7 a.m.

September 17-18 - Hawk watch at St. Thomas, Ontario. Leaders, Walter and Harriette Klabunde (PL4-4424). Contact the leaders if you are planning to go.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Grzybowski, 9 Redlein Drive, Lancaster, N.Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092.

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301



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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 32

August 1966

Number 8

## THE MONTH

July temperature was 1.6 degrees above the mean. Rainfall as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport east of the city was 4.92 inches, 2.35 inches above normal, while the portion of the Niagara Peninsula five miles west of Buffalo was suffering from its worst drought in several years.

Shorebirds returned unusually early, bringing record numbers of Dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers. A Ruff and an adult Black-headed Gull in Breeding plumage were the most interesting birds reported. Except among shorebirds, migration and other kinds of avian wandering were much below that of an average July. A puzzling exception to this occurred on July 9, a day characterized by a remarkable amount of movement and restlessness among many categories of birds. Ducks, shorebirds, gulls, terns, and landbirds of several families participated in a spree of migration or wandering that seemed to begin and end on that one day. It was as if a day from late August had mistakenly been transplanted into July 9. The Weather Bureau report for Buffalo contains nothing to explain the extraordinary bird movements on that day.

Observers agree that Yellow-billed Cuckoos are very scarce this year. Dan Salisbury stated about mid-summer that in his 1966 bird-list for this general area he had 240 species up to that time, but no Yellow-billed Cuckoo. This could scarcely have happened in any previous year. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations



Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	July 1-31	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
	" 4	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham, Hess et al
Horned Grebe	" 17	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Benham
	" 23	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Salisbury, Brownstein
	" 24	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Least Bittern	July 17,29	4,2 Tifft Street, Buffalo	Kikta
*Mute Swan	" 30	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Benham et al
Pintail	" 23	2,3 Evans Pt., Grant Pt., Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 24	20 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
	" 26	8 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle, Dorst, Hess
	" 28	6 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
Green-winged Teal	" 3	13 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
	" 9	11 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham
	" 24	12 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
American Widgeon	" 9,10	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 16-31	2 Rose's Point, Ont.	Axtell
	" 30	4 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
Redhead	July 28,30	6 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Greater Scaup	July 1-31	3-4 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 28,30	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Lesser Scaup	" 16-31	1 Rose's Point, Ont.	Axtell
Common Goldeneye	" 1-31	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 26	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle, Hess
Bufflehead	July 4,8	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess et al
Hooded Merganser	July 4	1 Evans Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Benham et al
	" 9	2 Beaver Meadow	Mitchell, Kikta et al
	" 9	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham
	" 30	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Common Merganser	" 4,28	3 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	" 24,30	8,13 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
Red-br. Merganser	" 28	1 Long Beach, Ont.	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
Sharp-shinned Hawk	" 4	2 E. Concord	Andrle
Cooper's Hawk	" 20	1 Belmont	Burtens
Red-shouldered Hawk	" 22,30	1,3 Scio, Friendship	Burtens
Semipalm. Plover	" 10F	1 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Salisbury, Brownstein
Ruddy Turnstone	" 23F	1 Evans Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	" 24	8 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
Whimbrel	" 10F	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Salisbury, Brownstein
Solitary Sandp.	July 4F	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	July 23	1 Belmont	Burtens
Gr. Yellowlegs	July 4F	2 Sugarloaf Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski, Benham, Hess
Lesser Yellowlegs	July 4,8	96,146 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
Pectoral Sandp.	July 4	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
White-r. Sandp.	July 28	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
Least Sandpiper	" 4,8	54,88 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
S.-b. Dowitcher	July 4F	5 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Benham, Hess
	July 4F	2 Rockhouse Point, Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Brownstein, Benham et al
	July 7	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
	July 7	1 Depew	Grzybowski



S.-b. Dowitcher	July	7	1	Prendergast Point	Sundell
	July	8	53	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski
	July	9	94	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
*Stilt Sandpiper	July	23	30	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	24, 28	28, 22	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
	"	30	40	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Brownstein, Benham et al
Semipalm. Sandp.	July	4F	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	July	8	13	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
				to Grant Point, Ont.	
	July	9	17	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
				to Grant Point, Ont.	
*Western Sandp.	July	19	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	27	2	Prendergast Point	Sundell, Kibler
	"	28	2	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
	"	31	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Mitchell
*Ruff	July	30	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Salisbury, Brownstein,
					Dorst, Mrozek
Sanderling	July	16	2	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Wilson's Phala.	July	8	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
	July	23	2	Grant Point, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	24, 30	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	28	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
Great Bl.-b. Gull	"	4, 8	19, 16	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
	"	9	11	Grant Point, Ont.	Benham, Brownstein
	"	28	13	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
*Black-headed Gull	"	23	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Salisbury, Brownstein,
					Benham
	July	24	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Seeber et al
	"	25	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle, Hess, Samuels
Bonaparte's Gull	"	4, 8	57, 154	Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Little Gull	July	9	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
	July	26	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle, Dorst, Hess
Caspian Tern	July	4	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Seeber et al
	"	23	1	Barcelona	Sundell
	"	30	3	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
Black Tern	"	3	300	Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
	"	30	2000	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski, Benham et al
Barn Owl	"	1, 2	1	Barcelona	Sundell
	"	2, 5	6	(family) Alden	Grzybowski
	"	10	3	Alden	Rybczynski
	"	29	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
Long-eared Owl	"	1-31	1	Belmont	Olmstead, Burtons
Whip-poor-will	"	2	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	"	10	2	Wainfleet Bog, Ont.	Brownstein, Salisbury
	"	23	1	Wainfleet Bog, Ont.	Kikta, Maciejewski
Tufted Titmouse	"	17-31	1-4	Lewiston	Klabundes
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	9	1	Beaver Meadow	Kikta, Rybczynski
	"	31	1	E. Concord	Andrle
Short-b. M. Wren	"	22	1	East Eden Pond	Bourne
Mockingbird	"	8, 23	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	"	23	1	Brockton	Rew, Buck
Eastern Bluebird	"	12	2	Lancaster	Benham
Bl.-gr. Gnatcat.	"	9	1	Beaver Meadow	Mitchell
	"	29	1	Kiantone	Sundell et al

G.-cr. Kinglet	July 4, 31	1, 2 E. Concord	Andrle
Loggerhead Shrike	July 17	1 near Port Colborne, Ont.	Axtell
Western Meadowlark	July 4	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski, Burger et al
	July 4	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess et al
Orchard Oriole	July 4	1 Miller's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
	" 23	1 Evans Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al

Species previously recorded this year: 251  
 Additional species recorded this issue: 5  
 Total for 1966: 256

### ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

#### Trip to Canadian Shore of Lake Erie, August 21, 1966

Gertrude Webster, leader

Every trip along the Canadian shore is charged with the hope that something special will show up; that of August 21 was no exception. High on the day's agenda were Wilson's Phalaropes, which had been seen the day before.

The day began well: a Willet stood conspicuously among the gulls and other shorebirds in the Peace Bridge meadow. Among the rocks below the breakwater, Short-billed Dowitchers probed, and above the merging waters of Erie and Niagara, in their lovely pied grace, dived hundreds of Black Terns.

In the bays of Jaeger Rocks, Waverly Beach and Yacht Harbor all the plovers save Golden were observed. Among "spotties", yellowlegs, Sanderlings, and the usual "peeps", a Solitary picked its delicate way. Two stilts, one in autumnal, the other still in partial summer plumage, accommodately posed for ample study. At Rockhouse a Caspian Tern sped overhead, and again at Grant Point two others preened deliberately, their huge red bills in starling contrast to those of nearby gulls. But no Wilson's Phalarope.

A Pigeon Hawk, congregating Purple Martins, Bank and Barn Swallows, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Bobolinks, together with Black-and-white, Yellow, Cape May, Myrtle, Wilson's and Canada Warblers, gave evidence that the fall migration of other than shorebirds was on time.

In a final stop at Sugar Loaf Point the group, now diminished to two cars, walked hopefully to the shore. There in fine view from Mrs. Neff's front yard, a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes spun around in watery circles. Mission accomplished!

Gertrude Webster



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESReport of the Twentieth Annual Shorebird Count

The 1966 Shorebird Count was held on July 17, and was, as last year's, one day earlier than ever before. Compared with other years, the water levels were very high, leaving less exposed beach and rock than ever before. Increased amounts of "pollutants" in the lake have also had an effect, in that they encourage more luxuriant plant growth, further reducing the exposed beach area. However, the very much greater algal accumulations and growth have made new habitat for long-legged birds in the shallows and for all shorebirds where it forms a more solid crust. The number of individual birds was greater than in either of the last two years, but still under the 1962 total or our record count of 1963.

Besides the ten areas of the original count, we again counted two additional areas. Territory #11, as for the last two years, starts at Port Maitland and continues westward to include Grant Point. The remaining westward shoreline of the BOS area has been lumped as Territory #12. Although attempts were made last year and this year to completely count this entire area, in neither year has this been accomplished. Also, the coverage of the Territory #12 areas in 1965 and 1966 is not precisely comparable.

Species Recorded, and their numbers:

TERRITORY NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	11	12	TOTAL
Semipalm. Plover	1	4	1	-	-	1	4	1	1	-	13	-	2	15
Killdeer	130	63	41	51	64	18	38	51	7	14	477	115	35	627
Common Snipe	-	-	-	1	3	4	1	1	-	-	10	-	-	10
Whimbrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Spotted Sandpiper	87	54	40	99	150	96	84	27	74	35	746	150	150	1046
Greater Yellowlegs	1	-	-	-	17	2	-	24	-	-	44	-	-	44
Lesser Yellowlegs	191	37	27	34	22	68	76	6	4	14	479	100	22	601
Pectoral Sandpiper	10	11	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	27	2	-	29
Least Sandpiper	19	78	47	87	7	20	95	25	2	15	395	105	114	614
Short-b. Dowitcher	21	7	4	-	6	-	2	-	8	15	63	65	-	128
Stilt Sandpiper	11	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	15	4	-	19
Semipalm. Sandp.	263	68	31	52	54	116	22	51	-	17	674	319	9	1002
Sanderling	1	9	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	11	17	2	30
Wilson's Phalarope	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	1	1
Unidentified "peep"	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	13	-	27
TOTALS	735	332	205	324	324	325	328	189	96	111	2969	890	335	4194

The numbers of Common Snipe and of Stilt Sandpipers are the highest of any of our twenty counts. A total of twenty-six persons participated in the Count.

A resume and analysis of our twenty years of Shorebird Counts will appear in the September issue of the Prothonotary.

Edward Seeber



BIRDING ON GRAND ISLAND AND BUCKHORN ISLAND STATE PARK

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF OUR SOCIETY

by Harold D. Mitchell

My first all-day field trip to Grand Island was with Clark S. Beardslee on our Christmas bird census in 1929, but I was never out from the time of the first ferry to the time the last ferry left the island. I recall that we covered the Burntship Creek area together, starting at Baseline Road and Wood Creek. We followed the creek down to the swampy area, then walked across the frozen east end of Burntship Creek onto Buckhorn Island. During this walk we flushed over 100 pheasants from the underbrush, which was then very thick along both sides of the creek and along Buckhorn Island. On the Niagara River Greater Scaup Ducks, the Common Mergansers, and Old Squaw were the most common diving ducks, while the Black Duck was the only common dabbling duck. The Herring Gull was the common gull. There were a very few Black-backed Gulls, and we were lucky to find even one or two Ring-billed Gulls. A small number of Bonaparte's Gulls were still present. During our walk we found many Tree Sparrows, a few Juncos, and a few Song Sparrows. Later we separated, Clark taking the west side of the island while I took the east side. We met later at the ferry

The population of the island was then small and a great deal of the island was laid out for agriculture. We were apt to find both the Northern and Prairie Horned Lark, as well as Lapland Longspurs and occasionally Snow Buntings in midwinter in these open fields. Occasionally we would find a Short-eared Owl, but Red-tailed Hawks and Rough-legged Hawks along with many Sparrow Hawks were the most common birds of prey. In the thorn thicket along the east river we found numbers of Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Nuthatches, as well as Brown Creepers, and sometimes Hairy, as well as the more common Downy Woodpeckers. Here also we usually found a few Robins at a spring hole and sometimes a flicker or two. In general, land birds were scarce this particular day, since the night before had seen a sleet storm which had coated all the shrubs and many of the weeds in thick ice, so that even the tree sparrows had difficulty in finding seeds to feed on. Within a year or two later, Cardinals began to show up on Grand Island, and apparently they have been increasing there ever since.

The last ferry usually left the island before dark, and it was important to be there, for otherwise you would be stranded on the island all night. This happened to me once one spring, when I was taking a trip with Raymond Wattles in his father's LaSalle car. We wanted to get close to Burntship Creek without disturbing the ducks, as there was a European Widgeon in the creek at the time. We drove the car a little too far into the soft area south of the creek, and before we knew it we were stuck. It was necessary to get a farmer to come over with a span of horses and drag us out. By that time, the last ferry had left, and we had to get accommodations with the farmer for the night. We had to use a bit of sales talk to stay there, because I think that the farmer's wife rebelled a little at our looks since we had on field trip clothing. But we finally convinced her that it would be all right and that we would reimburse her for her trouble. Our families had a good laugh at our expense after we came home the next morning on the first ferry. Another time, when I was birding on the island alone, I apparently lost my keys through a hole in the pocket of my field clothes, and I had to call



Mildred, who drove to the ferry, came across, and located me on Long Road with a spare set of keys. Since then, I have always kept a spare set of keys with me.

As our society grew in numbers, several parties could cover Grand Island, which was found to be a good central point to use in taking our Christmas Bird Counts. Al Wander, who knew the supervisor from Grand Island, arranged for us to use the Grand Island town hall for our lunch during our Christmas counts. This was a very fine idea, because each party could learn what the others had seen, and it gave them a chance during the afternoon to locate some rarity which may have been seen by one of the other parties.

Each year, for many years, Clark Beardslee and I took a trip along Wood Creek and over Burntship Creek onto Buckhorn Island during the first week in April. Here we usually found some of the early sparrows and always found one or more migrant shrikes, which have become uncommon to rare in recent years. It was in this area particularly that we put out 100 Bobwhite on August 20, 1931, in five groups of 20 each. Two of these groups were placed in fields not far from the West River and three groups in the Long Road and Baseline Road area. All were placed in the locations where the farmers had left out buckwheat or some other crop in part of their fields, and where there was plenty of cover available. Even though the birds were a Texas race of the Bobwhite, they did very well as late as the fall of 1933, since winters had been very mild up to that time. They had strayed somewhat from their original location, since there was a CCC camp nearby, and the young men were given the job of cutting out a great deal of the brush that had served as a good cover for the Bobwhite in the Burntship Creek and Buckhorn Island area. On top of this, in 1934 we had the coldest February in the history of the weather bureau, and after this very few Bobwhite were found, although Mr. French reported a brood in early June 1936 near Whitehaven and West River Roads.

Another interesting experience was with a Barn Owl family found on the BeDell house on Grand Island. On September 17, 1933, 4 young were found and later 3 of these were banded; later Barn Owls were found in two different locations along Ransom Road. This road was particularly good for finding birds of prey and also flocks of Golden Plover during the fall in the plowed fields. On April 27, 1930, Ray Verrill and I saw a flock of Lapland Longspur in full spring plumage near the east end of Whitehaven Road.

Before the Grand Island bridges opened in July 1935, the population remained low over most of the island. After this great changes took place, since the population increased materially. However, the north bridge and the Burntship Creek bridge made access to that area much easier, and a great many more observations were made than had been made before, when it required a long walk to reach the area.

Some of the records from the Burntship Creek area included a Yellow-headed Blackbird, first seen by Beardslee and McNutt on October 13, 1938, and seen later on the 16th by Mitchell and again on the 19th by Beardslee. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were regularly seen in the cattail areas, and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found in the grassy or sedgey areas near the Burntship Creek bridge, where, on November 13, 1949, a Black Brant was discovered by Ed Seeber. The word of this got around quickly, so that many members saw the bird and pictures were taken by Bert Wright. An unusually late migrant Purple Sandpiper was seen at Buckhorn Island State Park by Brockner on



June 6, 1954; the specimen was collected on June 8 and proved to be a female. On October 19, 1941, a probable Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen on Buckhorn Island on Beardslee and Vaughan, and the next day the same bird was probably the one seen by Wright. On October 17, 1948, an estimated 80 Greater Yellow-legs were seen in the Burntship Creek area. This is a very unusual number for one location in our territory.

There used to be many more cattails in the Burntship area, and at that time we occasionally saw Virginia and Sora Rails, and Common Gallinules were more plentiful than they are today. It might be well to trap some of the muskrats which are so numerous in the area, because their food consists largely of cattails, when cattails are plentiful; this might bring about an increase in cattails, making possible the survival of marsh birds in the area. Egrets have been seen in this area on several occasions, but they are not as common here today as they were 20 years ago. There have been a number of records of Whistling Swans in the Burntship Creek over the years, and Canada Geese used to feed in the fields south of the Creek in the days before the bridges were built. Black Ducks, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal and Wood Ducks usually nest in the area, but during migration the American Widgeon is usually the most common duck seen in the creek. Some of the rarer ducks, such as Gadwall and European Widgeon have been found there on several occasions, during both the spring and fall migrations. If fishermen would keep away from the Burntship Creek bridge area and along the water's edges, it would be much easier to attract the ducks to Bruntship Creek, since they do not mind the automobile traffic, but fly at once when people walk along the edges of the creek. If the fisherman used the Wood Creek area to the east of Burntship Creek, it would greatly improve the waterfowl situation in the creek.

I have taken many groups of young people to Buckhorn Island State Park, and now that the Niagara Frontier Park Commission has allowed nature trails to be built in the Buckhorn Island-Burntship Creek area, many additional groups of young people will have a chance to visit this unusually fine nature refuge. The Commission is to be commended for allowing the use of the park for educational facilities for thousands of young people in this area.

#### NOTICE

Joseph F. Thill has been appointed B.O.S. Compiler effective immediately. Mr. Thill replaces Joseph Grzybowski, who has resigned to enter college at St. Bonaventure University this fall. Please mail all Noteworthy Records for September 1966 and any 1966 nesting records not yet submitted, to Joseph Thill, 36 Allegeny Ave., Kenmore, N.Y. 14217 by not later than October fifth.



THE PYMATUNING RESERVOIR

by Edward C. Ulrich

The construction of the Pymatuning reservoir in the upper Allegheny drainage area was one of the first major steps undertaken for the retention of water for future use and also as a watershed control drainage measure and and a regulator against flooding in the downstream industrial lands of the lower river basin.

Work on the reservation was started in the early 1930's, and with its completion the flood gates were closed on January 23, 1934. The water rose behind the dam, and by September 14, 1935, they had flooded the basin of the Shenango River to the planned level. This impoundment covered the boggy lowlands and destroyed the biomatic conditions under which orchids, rhododendrons and the other acid-loving plants grew, but, as compensation, created lakes in a place where none were before.

The inundated area consists basically of three bodies of water separated by two causeways with control gates that allow regulation of water levels of the two upper sections. At the extreme downstream end, a dyke and a regulating overflow keep the lake at a determined level and also control the waterflow into the Shenango River at Jamestown, Pennsylvania.

The wilderness section of Presque Isle had always excited the interest of naturalists, and upon the completion of the Pymatuning Reservoir there came the combined attraction of both, which sparked the idea of a federated association for the study of natural history of that section in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Mr. Bayard Cristy of Swickley, Pa., contacted interested friends and associates and arranged for a meeting at Erie, Pa.

The Erie Audubon Society took the necessary steps, and as a result, the first Pymatuning group met on March 15-16, 1936, holding their business session at the Hotel Lawrence, with a dinner and evening program at the Church of the Covenant. A field trip to the peninsula at Presque Isle completed the first meeting of the loosely knit Pymatuning Club.

In 1937 the club met at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania; all subsequent meetings have been held at Linesville near the reservoir. Field trips, a short business meeting, a dinner and a lecture are crowded into a weekend, one usually in early May, and, in recent years, one also in September.

When the character of the landscape at Pymatuning was altered, a predictable change took place. The higher water destroyed the plants of the swamp and woods, and for some years the floating logs of dead trees lined the shore. Only around the damp edges of the reservoir did some of the original plants maintain a slim hold, and in later years these plants also gave way to the cattails and other shallow lakeside plants. This change was most conspicuous at the old iron bridge known as Blair's Bridge.

In a few years' time, when the lake was clear of debris, the impoundments attracted an increasing number of boaters, fishermen and hunters.



From the early years right after the flooding there remain memories of Pileated Woodpeckers in the woods near Linesville and of the frequent sightings of Bald Eagles. The shallow and fertile waters soon provided a home for many carp and also attracted many semi-wild Mallard Ducks. These provided a holiday pastime for many who came to the overflow on the upper causeway to feed the fish and ducks. The large school of carp, in the struggle for proffered food, would force themselves and the ducks upward and out of the water. The birds accepted these conditions and clambered over the backs of the fish to better retrieve the bread thrown to them by spectators on the causeway. During one season a "dog-fish", who lay in the shallow water along the shoreline, calmly accepted food from the hands of his benefactors. One enterprising merchant brought stale bread by the truckload and sold it to the people from stacks piled like cordwood on the roadside of the spillway.

In the years that followed, the balancing of nature resulted in a water environment which brought an increase in both species and numbers of waterfowl, marsh and shore birds. The change left unaffected the natural elements that favor the presence of fringillids. Prior to this year a pair of nesting Bald Eagles has found sanctuary in a new, restricted area within the confines of the lake.

The density and variety of the bird population vary with the seasons. Early May and mid-September prove most profitable, for at this time the local resident birds are augmented in numbers by the passing migrants.

An added attraction is a small museum of local natural history, housed in the administration building at the Linesville entrance. This provides a good introduction to those who visit here for the first time. The landscaping has been planned to integrate with the less cultivated environs. Here is a place to look for sparrows and those birds which are at home in the more open places.

In 1952 William C. Grimm published a book, Birds of the Pymatuning Region. This publication is the result of censuses taken in the period from 1939 to 1947 and should prove a help to those who visit the area.

Facilities for food and lodging have kept pace with the increasing demand for accommodations. Modern motels now meet the needs of the people who visit the place, in contrast to the crowded and inadequate accommodations that were available when the lake was first flooded.

The dense bog which preceded man's work has been replaced by an inverted, boot-shaped lake. The lake is approximately 13 miles long, from the heel to the top, and 8 miles wide, from the heel to the toe. Its recreational value has long been demonstrated by the many people who regularly use the area for leisure pursuits.

For the bird watcher there are the waterfowl on the lake, the gulls and terns on the dykes, shorebirds on the mud flats, and the gallinaceous birds in the marshes, especially in the marsh at Hartstown, to the south of the boot's instep. Enough woods, fields and marginal wet lands remain to create a well-balanced avian habitat.



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

September 14 - Summer birding experiences of members.

September 28 - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge: Projects Present and Future, Lawrence L. Smith, speaker.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

September 17-18 - Hawk watch at St. Thomas, Ontario. Leaders, Walter and Harriette Klabunde (PL4-4424). Contact the leaders if you are planning to go.

September 25 - Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shore birds. Dr. Harold Axtell, leader. Meet at Vermont Street entrance to Peace Bridge at 7:30 A.M.

September 24-25 - Pymatuning Weekend - Leader Harold Mitchell (NF3-8612). Meet 7:00 A.M. at Genesee Street side of Buffalo City Hall.

NOTE: Saturday morning bird walks will be held at 8:00 A.M. on the following mornings:

September 17 - the Wendlings  
September 24 - Sheldon Merritt

October 1 - Dr. Freitag  
October 8 - Gertrude Webster

Walks will start at Rumsey and Windsor roads and will be in Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegeny Ave., Kenmore, New York 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092.

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301





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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 32

September 1966

Number 9

## THE MONTH

August temperature was near normal, and rainfall at the Greater Buffalo International Airport was 0.55-in. above the long-term average.

Bird migration in general was also near normal, with no very noteworthy "waves." The biggest swallow migration noted north of Lake Erie was on the twelfth, with the birds flying westward on a northwest wind averaging 10 m.p.h. Rather large numbers of Nighthawks, presumably migrating, were recorded the 29th and 30th. Almost nightly listening to nocturnal migrants revealed Veeries migrating from the night of the 19th-20th regularly and in increasing numbers throughout the rest of the month. The first pre-dawn on which several Swainson's Thrushes were heard was the 28th, after which the nightly number increased rather rapidly. There was an exceptionally early Red Crossbill. Two different Ruffs were observed early in the month. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	Aug. 1-31	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
Great Blue Heron	" 9	50 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
Common Egret	" 8,30	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Benham
B.-c. Night Heron	" 15	2 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski
Gadwall	" <u>24</u>	1 Port Colborne, Ont.	Mitchell et al



Vo. 32, No. 9 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Pintail	Aug.	1	6	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Mitchell, Grzybowski
	"	12	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	21	1	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Webster et al
Green-w. Teal	"	24	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	29	1	Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Mitchell et al
American Widgeon	"	25	4	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell, Hess
Shoveler	"	17	1	Bemus Point	Sundell
	"	25	2	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell, Hess
Wood Duck	"	17	4	Sherkston, Ont.	Andrle
	"	25	50	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
Redhead	"	1	3	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Mitchell, Grzybowski
	"	11	6	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Greater Scaup	"	1	3	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Mitchell, Grzybowski
	"	11, 16	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	24	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Mitchell et al
Common Merganser	"	1, 15, 21	4, 3, 2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	1, 21	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	11	25	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
	"	21	1	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Webster et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	3	1	Sturgeon Point	Bourne
	"	12	1	Belmont	Burtens
Cooper's Hawk	"	27	1	Riverside	Sundell, Pillsbury
Red-shouldered Hawk	"	29	1	Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
Broad-winged Hawk	"	11	2	Alma	Burtens
	"	11, 28	1	Belmont	Burtens
	"	25	1	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
	"	25	1	Rainham Centre, Ont.	Grzybowski
Bald Eagle	"	11	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	"	31	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski
(both of the above records are of immature)					
Bobwhite	"	31	2	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski
Turkey	"	3	1	Eden	Bourne
*Am. Golden Plover	"	24F	2	Prendergast Point	Sundells
	"	24F	2	Dunnville, Ont.	Mitchell et al
Black-bell. Plover	"	1F	2	Port Colborne, Ont.	Mitchell, Grzybowski
	"	6	2	Grant Point, Ont.	Benham
Upland Plover	"	30	1	Jamestown	Sundell, Kibler
Willet	"	15, 21, 25	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Freitag et al
	"	18	1	Barcelona	Sundells
	"	21	2	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Webster et al
	"	25	1	North Evans	Bourne
Knot	"	21F	5	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	21F	4	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Webster et al
	"	25	13	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski
White-r. Sandpiper	"	4F, 11, 21	1, 1, 2	Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	9	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	11	2	Miller's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	15, 16	1	Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	25	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
*Baird's Sandpiper	"	12F	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	21	5	Grant Point, Ont.	Benham, Grzybowski
	"	25	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
	"	25	2	Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Western Sandpiper	"	4	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne



Western Sandpiper	Aug.	21	1 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Webster
	"	24	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	24	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Mitchell et al
<u>Ruff</u>	"	2	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Axtell, Sundell
	"	4	1 Evans Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Wilson's Phalarope	"	1	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Mitchell, Grzybowski
	"	4	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	16	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Hess, Grzybowski
	"	17	1 Waverly Beach, Ont.	Axtell
	"	17	1 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Andrle
	"	17,21	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle
		(specimen collected on the 21st)		
	"	21	2 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Webster et al
	Aug.	23	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Sundell et al
*Northern Phalarope	Aug.	24	1 Waverly Beach, Ont.	Axtell
		(specimen collected)		
Great Bl.-b. Gull	Aug.	1,21	8,8 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
*Franklin's Gull	"	15,16,21	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Little Gull	Aug.	1	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Mitchell
	Aug.	15	1 Front Park, Buffalo	Grzybowski
	"	21	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
*Forster's Tern	Aug.	15	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski
Caspian Tern	Aug.	3	1 Sturgeon Point	Bourne
	"	11,21	2,1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	15,16	3,2 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	17,25	2,1 Bemus Point	Sundell
	"	19	1 Prendergast Point	Sundell
	"	21	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	21	3 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Webster et al
	"	31	2 Waverly Beach, Ont.	Axtell
Barn Owl	"	19	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Nighthawk	"	29	15 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	29	24 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	29	70 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	30	78 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yaki
Y.-b. Flycatcher	"	21F	1 Can. Shore Lake Erie	Webster et al
	"	25	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Olive-s. Flycatcher	"	19F	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	21,26	1,1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	21	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	27	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Benham
Bank Swallow	"	12	600 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Cliff Swallow	"	12	40 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	30F	3 Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	31	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
Brown Creeper	"	14,20	1,4 Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Mockingbird	"	4	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yaki
	"	28	1 Belmont	Burtens
Swainson's Thrush	"	12-31	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	16	1 Elma	Danner
	"	28-31	4-10 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Veery	"	20F	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells

Vol. 32, No. 9 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Eastern Bluebird	Aug.	10	5	Boston	Bourne
"	"	30	6	Gasport	Webster rep. Webster
(Maximum numbers for month)					
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	"	13	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	15,21	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	"	18	1	Royalton	Grzybowski
"	"	25	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitags
Loggerhead Shrike	"	3	1	Derby	Bourne
"	"	14,26	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	20	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Philadelphia Vireo	"	24	1	Athol Springs	Bourne
Bl.-&-wh. Warbler	"	13F,28	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	16	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
*Prothonotary Warb.	"	18	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Freitag
Golden-w. Warbler	"	27F	1	Delaware Park	Freitag et al
Blue-w. Warbler	"	14F	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	25	1	Lakeside Cem., Hamburg	Andrle
"	"	30	1	Darien	Grzybowski
Tennessee Warbler	"	17F,28	1,2	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	25	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Nashville Warbler	"	13F,14	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Parula Warbler	"	26F	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
"	"	29	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Magnolia Warbler	"	16F,18	1,2	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Cape May Warbler	"	16F	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	21	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	"	21	4	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Bl.-thr. B. Warbler	"	18F	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Myrtle Warbler	"	16F	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	18	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Bl.-thr. G. Warbler	"	7F	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	16	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Blackburn. Warbler	"	7F,14	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Chestnut-s. Warbler	"	16F,18	1,3	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Bay-br. Warbler	"	14F	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	21	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Nor. Waterthrush	"	1F	1	Barcelona	Sundell
"	"	6	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Benham et al
La. Waterthrush	"	30	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Grzybowski
Conn. Warbler	Aug.	25	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Mourning Warbler	Aug.	27F,28	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Yellow-br. Chat	"	28	1	Angelica	Burtens
"	"	30	1	Darien	Grzybowski
Wilson's Warbler	"	20F	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	21	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Benham et al
Canada Warbler	"	13F	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	15	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Amer. Redstart	"	27	6	Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Freitag et al
Red-w. Blackbird	"	1	5000	Belvidere Roost	Olmstead
Orchard Oriole	Aug.	25	3	Erie Beach, Ont.	Grzybowski
Common Grackle	Aug.	4	2000	Hamburg	Bourne
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1	500	Belvidere Roost	Olmstead
Red Crossbill	Aug.	28	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Henslow's Sparrow	Aug.	18	1	Royalton	Grzybowski, Freitag
Grasshopper Sparrow	"	24	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	31	1	Lakeview	Bourne



Species previously recorded this year:	256
Additional species recorded this issue:	6
Total for 1966:	<u>262</u>

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RESEARCH COMMITTEE ASKS AID ON PROJECT

Mr. Lawrence Smith, Manager of the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in the Oak Orchard Swamp area, has requested assistance from the Buffalo Ornithological Society in compiling a status and abundance list of bird species for the 10,800-acre Refuge. Although the majority of the observations made by members of the Society through the years in the Oak Orchard area have not been within the present boundaries of the Iroquois Refuge, it is believed possible to compile such a list eventually, based on previous observations and upon records from field trips in the refuge from now on.

Therefore, the Research Committee requests that:

1) members make a special effort to take more field trips at various seasons into the Refuge. Permission to enter on foot from the roads traversible by automobile must be secured from the Refuge headquarters, now on Lewiston Road near Casey Road, where the purpose of the visit should be made clear.

2) observations within the Refuge include, in addition to dates of observations, numbers, and species of birds, the locations of the sightings as accurately as possible.

3) reports be included with records normally sent to the B.O.S. Compiler each month. They may, if desired, be sent separately, directly to the Chairman of the Research Committee.

4) members having data on previous observations made within the present Refuge boundaries should, if possible, compile them and send them to the Research Committee Chairman.

A map of the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, from which its boundaries can be fairly accurately determined, is available at the Refuge headquarters. The Refuge is generally bounded on the west by the Salt Works Road; on the south by Lewiston, Casey, Roberts, and Knowlesville Roads; and on the east by the Knowlesville and East Shelby Roads. On the north the Refuge boundary is irregular and is mainly south of the West Shelby and Fletcher Chapel Roads.

The cooperation of active members of the B.O.S. is sought in this project. It will not only prove of assistance to Mr. Smith, but can add to knowledge of the birdlife of this interesting area, especially in view of the changes that are now taking place there in the development of the Refuge. Actually, a concerted and systematic effort by only one or two active observers during the four seasons beginning now would probably be sufficient to gather enough data for a basic list, but, of course, the more observers participating, the better will be the results obtained. The members of the

(continued on page 116)



TWENTY YEARS OF SHOREBIRD COUNTS

An Attempt at Partial Analysis

by Edward L. Seeber

The members and friends of the BOS, as part of our society's research program, have just completed the twentieth successive annual shorebird count. For five years - 1947 to 1951 - on a selected Sunday in early August, ten teams of observers walked all of the north shore of Lake Erie from the head of the Niagara River at the Peace Bridge to the mouth of the Grand River opposite the village of Port Maitland. The same territories were walked on a selected Sunday in late August for the five years 1952 to 1956, on Sundays or Mondays (some were held on Labor Day) in early September for the five years 1957 to 1961, and on Sundays in late July for the five years 1962 to 1966. On each of these walks all shorebirds were noted, identified wherever possible, counted, and their location along the shore plotted. (Shorebirds is a term used in this case to denote any birds found of the families Charadriidae, Scolopacidae, and Phalaropidae. Had certain Charadriiform birds of certain other families appeared, they too would have been included, but Laridae were not.)

Field identifications were made using binoculars and telescopes. A determined effort was made to obtain the services of the most competent field observers locally available and to have at least one thoroughly competent observer in each party at all times. Despite the best precautions, errors of identification, as well as errors of enumeration and of recording do creep into all summations of this type. On the whole, an effort to remain aware of possible sources of error has been made, and a conscientious effort has been made to eliminate error wherever possible and to minimize it where complete elimination is not. It is my belief, then, that the data summarized here is, if not precisely accurate, well within a degree of accuracy where errors are statistically insignificant, with one exception. Those modern competent field observers of my acquaintance tend to be, in varying degrees, conservative in reporting and counting those birds that they believe to be rare, or, at least, more rare than another species with which it might be confused. I suspect that this may have resulted in a significant percentage of, for instance, Western Sandpipers being mis-identified as Semipalmated Sandpipers, especially so for male Westerns in changing plumages. The inclusion of a few Westerns in the total of Semipalmateds can have no significance in the figures for Semipalmateds, but might serve to distort the figures for Westerns significantly.

As a scientific experiment these shorebird counts are of little value due to the rather large number of variables influencing shorebird numbers in this place under the conditions observed. Among these are variations in the weather; in water levels; in the amount of molestation of habitat by humans and their domestic animals; in the amount of fertilizers (pollutants) in the lake and along its shores; in the amount of algae in the lake near, at, and on the shore; and in the total numbers of shorebirds on this continent. Our accumulated data might be analyzed to appraise the effect of any of these variables. Our counts reflect to some degree a combination of all of these.

The accompanying resume shows total count for each species for the entire ten areas for each of the twenty years. In the years 1964, 1965, and 1966 additional shore areas to the west of the basic ten were counted.



Although omitted from the chart, data for these other areas were given in the issue of The Prothonotary for each of these years and will be indicated in the following species accounts where it seems pertinent.

The total distance from start to finish is, by road, just about 40 miles; by air, it is slightly less; but along the lake shore, following its contours, it is 54 miles. Each of the ten areas is about equal, the longest being not over seven miles. Territory ten is shorter than are the others. Practical considerations determined, to a large extent, the actual end points of the various territories. Attempts at direct comparison of one area with another are, therefore, less valuable than had the distance been precisely equal.

Abundance criteria for birds are expressed, where practical, in terms of area, such as birds per 100 acres or some such figure. There seems to be no benefit in trying to relate our figures here. It is not difficult to estimate the average width of the shore area here and, by multiplying this by the length, to determine a total area. It would be not too difficult to make actual sample measurements in a number of places in order to check the accuracy of these estimates. However, there is another very real variable induced here. The actual width of shore utilizable by shorebirds fluctuates widely from year to year, and even considerably from day to day with changing weather. Some years we have high water; in other years the water levels are consistently down. Storms, heavy rainfall, and wind direction affect this average available area by as much as 65%. Although these same factors undoubtedly affect shorebird numbers along our shore, the results are not proportional, nor are they always, perhaps never, directly related. Figures for shorebirds per acre or other such area relationship are worthless.

What we are left with is a linear relationship. From the data on the accompanying chart, an average of birds per mile, for each species and for each year, can be readily calculated. This figure would be, as I see it, the figure to be used in comparing shorebird abundance here with that of shorelines or other linear habitat elsewhere, were such comparable figures available.

It cannot be assumed, however, that these birds are ever evenly distributed along this 54-mile stretch. Certain areas are collecting spots, attracting numerous sandpipers, while intervening stretches, sometimes miles long, yield few if any shorebirds. One effect of these counts has been to demonstrate that, although a few favored spots frequently hold the majority of the birds - at least the long-range migrants - there are other places less well known to us that do attract numbers of birds, including rarities, under certain conditions.

It had been hoped that these counts would show truly the relative abundance of each species of shorebird at the different time periods of the autumnal migration. One highly significant variable which tends to mask these comparisons somewhat is the great amount of change that has occurred in the lake environment itself. Lake Erie was hardly pristine in its purity when we started these counts in 1947, but it has become increasingly more polluted since. Lake pollution has had noticeable effects on shorebird habitat and therefore on the numbers and kinds of shorebirds counted. One effect has been the increase of such elements of plant nutrition as nitrates and phosphates. These materials, dissolved and suspended in the waters of the lake, not only tend to immensely increase the growth of algae, but are also washed up onto the shorelines, driven there by storms



and splashed there by waves. The increased invasion of emergent plants, the increased luxuriance of growth of such plants upon the beaches, and the subsequent reduction of sterile, sandy beaches and nearly as sterile rocky points has become very evident. Although this increase in pollution has been progressive over these twenty years, it had but a slight apparent effect until the last three of these years. In 1964, however, it became progressively much greater and has been increasingly accentuated in 1965 and again in 1966.

Pollution is of many types. Pollution that adds plant nutrients to the waters usually has a beneficial effect on wildlife habitat, including shorebird feeding grounds, by encouraging greater growth of organisms early in the food-chains of these species. The high total numbers of shorebirds in July of 1962 - 4523 birds - and the higher count of July 21, 1963 - 4918 birds - reflect not only the tendency of shorebirds to be most numerous here in that part of July, but also the increased habitat and food for them due to this influx of pollutants. The decrease to less than 3000 birds in each of the last three years, then, although undoubtedly influenced by temporary weather factors, reflects, I feel sure, the fact that pollutants have become so great as to create, not increasingly better feeding conditions, but rather an imbalance great enough to discourage even shorebirds and their food organisms. Places where we formerly found shorebirds collecting now smell very foul. Shorebirds are not repulsed by the smell, but mussels and crustacea native to this region doubtlessly are affected by the present conditions, probably removing some of the more favored food items for shorebirds from at least some of their formerly favored haunts.

A few general conclusions seem to be indicated by the data in the table. There are more shorebirds here in late July than at the other times censused. This is brought about by increased numbers of a few abundant species, not by an increase in the number of species. The greatest number of shorebird species, of the times censused, occurs in early September. More kinds of rarities tend to occur at that time, although rarities can occur at any time.

The relative abundances for some species have been somewhat modified by these counts. Field observers have spent time on these shores at comparable seasons before and at times other than on these counts, obtaining impressions of the abundance of each shorebird species. Never, however, has as much quantitative data become available as is now accumulated in the accompanying table. The overall impact of this data is to confirm our previous abundance criteria. The following species accounts will, in places, suggest modifications.

Further analysis, it seems to me, had better be done under the species where appropriate. The following species accounts are listed in order of their total abundance according to our accumulated data.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. This, the most numerous shorebird found on our counts, is a species that breeds in the Arctic and passes through here on its migrations. It is most abundant in late July and becomes less numerous as the year gets later, as our data shows. These birds travel in flocks, generally, and tend to be concentrated in groups as we find them. This species, although more numerous at the points and better feeding areas, can sometimes be found almost anywhere along the shore. Only by a complete coverage of the whole shoreline can they be accurately censused.



Our observers, being of varied occupations, can best take part in our shore count on Sundays and legal holidays. The actual date of the count thus varies somewhat from year to year. Actually, our calendar also introduces slight variance in our annual coverage. This normally makes for a variable so small as to be masked entirely by the fluctuations in weather conditions and other variables, but in the case of Semipalmated Sandpipers in late July this is not the case. The decrease from 2232 birds on July 22, 1962, to 1630 on July 21, 1961, to 624 on July 19, 1963, cannot be due entirely to the slight difference in the day of the year, but a spot-check on July 24, 1966, gave indications that there were many more of this species than the 674 counted a week earlier. In the average year, counts taken within the few days after July 22nd will find more Semipalmated Sandpipers than in the few days before. This, then, is an added variable, making our data less precise.

Earlier in our shore count reports I expressed the conclusion, based on observations, that the general movement of shorebirds through this region is, at this season, west to east. Further observation has shown that the movements of Arctic-breeding shorebirds here is more complex. Most of the birds, when found on our shorebird counts have not been actively migrating. Since there is considerable movement from one portion of the shore to another it is not easy to state, with data to support it, that actual migration is taking place. On some days, however, we have seen movements of rather large segments of our Arctic-nesting shorebirds which were almost certainly actively migrating. In these cases, always early in the morning (6:00 to 7:00 A.M.) the birds do move west to east if they follow the shore. Some have been noted arriving at the shore overland from the north also. I suspect that some fly southward at night, and if daylight arrives when near Lake Erie, they land at its shore to feed and rest.

Spotted Sandpiper. This is our abundant breeding sandpiper of the shoreline here. It is the most generally distributed species on our counts. The tendency of our shorebirds to collect in favorable locales, leaving other stretches unoccupied, is less pronounced in the Spotted. During the breeding season there is little of the 55-mile stretch of our count that is not included in the territory defended by one or another bird of this species. Our counts occur well after the height of the breeding season, when only a semblance of vigorous defense is maintained, but there is still enough territoriality manifested to keep the species well spread along our shores. The numbers of breeding birds and their young which are to be found on our counts is augmented by birds which breed farther from the lake and move to the shore after breeding, as well as by migrants from farther north and/or west. The highest numbers counted were in the July counts, indicating that numbers of Spotted Sandpipers leave this area to move on even as early as early August. The early August numbers, next most abundant on our count, include numerous migrants of this species, as well as local breeding or hatching individuals. The tendency of many, perhaps most, species of shorebirds to migrate southward by differing age groupings is well shown here. Those individuals found here on our later counts are mostly birds hatched this year. By early September few are left and the Spotted is not nearly our most abundant shorebird.

Killdeer. The Killdeer is our other abundant breeding shorebird. Numbers of Killdeers recorded on the shorebird count have varied from a high of 687 individuals in 1950 to a low of 40 birds in 1955. They average most abundant on the early September counts, with early August, late July, and



late August following in that order. Killdeer breed very commonly in the countryside at large, and their numbers on the shore seem to depend on complex factors, such as local weather, food and water abundances in the fields and several others. Just because only 40 Killdeer were counted on the shore in 1955 or 171 in 1966 does not really reflect the true abundance of this species here. Therefore, further analysis seems pointless. The species remains abundant during all periods surveyed.

Lesser Yellowlegs. This species, which breeds in the subarctic, has been reported on all twenty of our shorebird counts, but the numbers vary more widely, percentagewise, than do those of any other species consistently recorded. The maximum, 993 (and probably most of the 50 unidentified Yellowlegs), were counted on July 21, 1963. The lowest count, 5, was on August 21, 1955. The count clearly shows that, of the times surveyed, many times as many Lesser Yellowlegs occur here in late July than in any of the other count periods.

In the average year the numbers of this species reach their maximum in July and generally decrease from there. There is some tendency to reach a minor second peak later - about early September - but the results of our counts must be interpreted to show, not only the normal seasonal variation of the species, but also the very greatly increasing food and feeding habitat for this species for most of the years of this count. Thus, the years 1957 through 1961 were more favorable for Yellowlegs than were the 1947 - 1951 or the 1942 - 1956 periods. The greatly increased water pollution of the 1962 - 1966 period has served to augment the normal tendencies of this species to be most numerous in the July period tested.

Whether the decrease from 993 in 1963 to 479 in 1966 is significant I am not, with the data at hand, prepared to say.

Least Sandpiper. This Arctic-breeding species is the first to arrive here in numbers after the breeding season. The peak numbers of Least Sandpipers may be reached even before the dates of our July counts in most years. The numbers of this species reaches an early peak and then decreases, except for the tendency to reach a second peak in September when many of the young birds come through. Our counts, which show an average of 357 birds in late July, 115 in early August, 52 in late August, and 115 in early September clearly show this. Just why there were as many as 266 on August 8, 1948, or as few as 17 on September 9, 1961, are not questions easily answered. Food and weather conditions, both here and in the Arctic, have, no doubt, great influences on this.

Sanderling. On July 22, 1963, 240 Sanderlings were noted by Ken. Able flying past Windmill Point in a period of less than half an hour (see Prothonotary, Vol 28, 8, p 90). The inclusion of this one observation distorts an otherwise clear picture of this species as one that comes to us only in very small numbers in July but increases in numbers as the season progresses into September. The late July average of 85 Sanderlings, becomes 17 if we delete Able's 1962 flight. This is one of our most numerous late shorebirds.

On the ocean beaches Sanderlings are found on the outer sides, seldom intermixed with other species. In our region, they are found intermixed with the flocks of other species and tending to congregate with them. Although our sand beach areas are less extensive than are the ocean shores and, of



course, washed entirely by fresh waters, it is still an interesting and unanswered question as to why we do not find Sanderlings generally preferring the sandy areas along our shore as they do along the Atlantic.

This species was missed on our 1965 count and only one was reported on the count in 1964. Otherwise it was always recorded. These low counts indicate its general irregularity in late July here, as the species normally remains in the Arctic later than this. Because of this, Able's 240 migrating Sanderlings on July 22nd is an unexpected observation, generally differing from what is to be expected of this species on the basis of our present understandings. Future records of numbers of Sanderlings moving in late July should be sought.

Semipalmated Plover. Although reported on all 20 of our counts, this species is not numerous in late July, and perhaps not always represented by July 20th every year. Our count on July 19, 1964, turned up but one of these birds. Our late July average, 12, represents less than one bird for each 4 miles of shore. The species is more numerous in August, reaching peak numbers in late August and then declining. The 171 Semipalmated Plovers counted on this count on August 19, 1956, is the largest number of these little Plovers ever for this region.

Pectoral Sandpiper. "Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region", by Beardslee and Mitchell, states that "The maximum fall count is 75 birds, observed August 9, 1936, along the Canadian Shore of Lake Erie (Mrs. Mansfield, et al.)". Our count of 163 Pectoral Sandpipers on July 21, 1963, surpasses this, as does the 111 counted on July 19, 1964. Our data shows this species most numerous in late July, becoming less numerous in August, particularly late August, and becoming slightly more numerous again by early September. However, these figures, having been obtained in different periods of five years reflecting different average levels of pollution of Lake Erie, are of questionable reliability as to seasonal abundance. What they may exclusively indicate is that the habitat has become increasingly favorable for this species and that Pectorals are becoming more numerous and staying longer along our lake shore than formerly.

Ruddy Turnstone. Here is another species for which a greater total has been recorded than in "Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region", 69 on September 5, 1960. It is missing from our three earliest July counts, and two of the August counts. The maximum for our count are in September, indicating a later southward migration for this species than for most of our other shorebirds. By Labor Day it is a regular and common bird of our shores.

Short-billed Dowitcher. Here is another species that has been greatly aided in its food abundances and habitat preferences by the increased lake pollution of recent years and its affect on the available habitat areas. The numbers on our counts, tending to show peak numbers in late July with a secondary peak in early September, should not be interpreted too positively, since these counts also show, and more graphically, the increase in Dowitchers with increased pollution. Maximum numbers for the ten count areas are 104 in 1965 and 63 in 1966. When areas 11 and 12 are added, these totals become 149 on July 18, 1965 and 128 on July 17, 1966. These, then, become the maximum single-day counts of this species for this region (barely surpassing Mr. Clark's May 21, 1966, total). There can be no doubt that deep accumulations of fresh algae on our shores are attractive to long-billed

## SHOREBIRD COUNT

1947 - 1966

DATE YEAR	7/17 1966	7/18 1965	7/19 1964	7/21 1963	7/22 1962	9/9 1961	9/5 1960	9/7 1959	9/7 1958	9/8 1957
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Semipalmated Plover	13	10	1	14	20	25	96	62	41	57
Killdeer	130	410	510	398	360	317	470	185	626	676
Golden Plover	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	-
Black-bellied Plover	-	1	-	-	-	2	54	28	10	32
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	1	4	7	69	52	31	31
Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Snipe	10	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whimbrel	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Upland Plover	1	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Spotted Sandpiper	746	867	657	872	809	76	195	121	119	53
Solitary Sandpiper	-	4	2	6	2	-	2	2	3	-
Willet	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	44	21	106	17	6	6	19	5	13	13
Lesser Yellowlegs	479	553	523	993	233	18	82	31	80	39
"unidentified Yellowlegs"	-	6	-	50	-	-	9	-	-	-
Knot	-	-	-	-	-	4	39	17	7	13
Pectoral Sandpiper	27	53	111	163	50	3	37	32	18	34
White-rumped Sandpiper	1	1	-	1	-	1	3	2	6	2
Bairds Sandpiper	1	-	-	2	2	1	7	7	20	9
Least Sandpiper	395	409	227	368	388	17	127	136	95	83
Dunlin	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	4	-	4
Short-billed Dowitcher	63	104	6	16	55	2	31	4	7	15
Long-billed Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Stilt Sandpiper	15	5	8	5	13	-	3	2	1	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper	674	135	624	1630	2232	32	416	176	218	267
Western Sandpiper	-	-	1	3	2	-	6	2	5	2
"unidentified peep"	14	139	-	304	22	-	-	-	-	-
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Hudsonian Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ruff	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Phalarope	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
"unidentified shorebirds"	-	-	22	2	2	-	-	16	-	-
Sanderling	11	-	1	70	345	14	525	217	87	176
TOTAL	2971	2722	2801	4918	4523	526	2200	1105	1390	1510
Additional Terr. #11	890	464	607							
" " 12	335	271								
GRAND TOTAL	4196	3457	3408							



## - RESUME

											Averages			
8/19	8/21	8/22	8/23	8/24	8/5	8/6	8/7	8/8	8/3		Late	Early	Late	Early
1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	TOTAL	July	Sept.	Aug.	Aug.
1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	TOTAL	62-66	57-61	52-56	47-51
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	a	a	b	a
171	70	121	84	60	100	58	104	96	55	1258	12	56	101	83
235	40	437	222	300	458	687	277	219	361	7218	362	441	247	400
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	a	2	b	a
26	4	52	18	-	30	5	3	-	5	270	b	25	20	9
14	5	8	10	5	37	27	14	11	21	347	1	38	8	22
-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	a	a	b	a
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	14	2	b	a	b
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	14	c	b	a	2
-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	10	c	b	a	b
449	247	390	197	210	607	513	460	380	673	8641	790	113	299	527
23	1	17	3	2	5	6	3	2	-	83	3	1	9	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	b	c	a	a
16	1	-	-	3	1	4	14	1	2	286	39	11	4	4
89	5	23	7	6	43	52	40	23	100	3236	556	52	26	52
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	-
-	2	-	18	20	1	-	-	1	8	130	a	16	8	2
36	25	6	2	2	1	64	37	10	4	715	81	25	14	23
2	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	22	d	3	c	b
1	1	4	2	1	1	-	-	2	7	68	1	9	2	2
160	17	42	18	12	59	77	75	266	48	3019	357	92	52	115
-	-	-	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	16	b	2	b	c
17	4	3	-	6	4	1	-	-	-	338	49	12	6	1
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	a	b	b	a
4	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	66	7	2	1	1
508	151	320	203	82	938	955	437	546	1348	11912	1059	242	253	845
16	-	2	5	-	2	5	1	2	2	56	c	3	5	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	479	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	a	b	a	a
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	a	b	a	a
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	a	b	a	a
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	b	a	a	a
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	d	a	a	a
75	36	91	77	41	29	34	70	50	148	2097	85	204	66	66
1843	613	1519	870	750	2322	2490	1536	1621	2784	41014	3587	1346	1119	2191

43581

KEY: a - 1 record - may be more than one individual  
 b - 2 distinct records - may be more than two individuals  
 c - 3 distinct records - may be more than three individuals  
 d - 4 distinct records - may be more than four individuals

species, and our counts show this.

Other species:

Greater Yellowlegs. This species migrates later in the fall than does the Lesser, and I am sure the apparently greater abundance for it in late July, as indicated by our shore counts, reflects entirely the increased habitat caused by increased pollution in these years, not seasonal abundance.

Black-bellied Plover. Rare in July, this species becomes regular by mid-August, and our counts show it most numerous in September. Black-bellied Plover frequent plowed fields, and the Lake Erie shore is not their preferred habitat. It is likely that excessive lake pollution makes the shore less desirable for this species.

Knot. Unreported on our July counts and irregular on those taken in August. This species was regular on our September counts in fair numbers. A later September count might well give better evidence of the true fall abundance of this species here.

Of the remaining species, none of which have totalled 100 birds over 20 years of counts, Stilt Sandpipers and Common Snipe have apparently been greatly increased in numbers in our later counts and have undoubtedly been attracted by the habitat change encouraged by increased pollution.

There has been an increased awareness of the presence of the less easily recognized species of "peep" in our region.

All the other species are either birds of other habitats and rarely found on the shore (ex. Woodcock), species migrating generally later in the season than our counts (ex. Dunlin), or distinct rarities here at any time. Coverage as comprehensive as that of these counts cannot but help to increase even our reporting and knowledge of rarities, and the accompanying chart can be used for speculative guesses, at least, with regard to some of the rarer species.

The Future of our Shorebird Counts:

These twenty shorebird counts have given us much data and helped clarify and document our understandings of shorebird occurrences in our region, but they have failed somewhat to give comparison data of the type desirable for a precise quantitative survey. Whether more precise censusing techniques are warranted, under the present circumstances of limited resources, and complete dependence on voluntary, non-remunerated labor, is doubtful. Perhaps we should, as a Society, thank those who have participated for these twenty years and turn our energies to something else.

If, however, our Society wishes to continue the line of investigation opened up, it has, as I see it, two general choices: to maintain the same general tenor of activity, with its scientific shortcomings; or to increase its activities so as to better relieve the number of variables.

We might well try five more years at another time, such as late September, and if the project were adequately executed, we would continue to learn more about our sandpipers at this new season. I recommend that the Research Committee consider this and present to the Society its recommendation



in this regard.

A more intensive attempt to assess which variables are most operative in causing fluctuating numbers of shorebirds means, as I see it, either a long series of counts on the same date each year, or several, at the minimum two, counts in the same year. A long series on the same date would show trends in annual abundance and thus give real data regarding effects of changing habitat throughout the years. A century of such counts could give an index of abundance such as is perhaps unequalled in studies of any animal group. On the other hand, to take a series of counts each year for five years would give us a much more accurate comparison of the abundance of these birds during the year and tend to minimize the effects of changing habitats other than those caused by the changing seasons. I recommend three counts, one near July 20th, one in mid-August and one in September. If this proves too exhaustive of our talents and free time, then two, one in July and one about Labor Day. The data thus obtained would greatly build upon and enhance our present understanding.

I want sincerely to thank those who have assisted me and joined in making these counts possible.

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#### Research Committee Asks Aid (cont. from page 105 )

Research Committee are planning to participate in this undertaking and are ready to assist other members in any way possible.

Robert F. Andrie  
Chairman

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

Those B.O.S. members who have attended meetings this fall found several changes at the Museum. Meetings are now held in the new Club Room, which was formerly the library and reading room, and parking is now more convenient in the expanded, well-lighted parking lot to the west. Entrance to the Museum for the meetings is now made through the doors adjacent to the parking lot.

The B.O.S. Hazelton Library has been moved to the small room near the Club Room, and though the books may seem less accessible, there is now ample space in the two bookcases. Soon our five filing cabinets will also be housed in this room.

In addition, the B.O.S. is fortunate in having its meetings on Wednesday, the one evening in the week when the Research Library, now housed on the second floor, will be open.

For these changes which add to our comfort and convenience, we are grateful to Harold Mitchell, President of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, and to Fred Hall, Director of the Museum.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 p.m. from September to June inclusive.

October 12 - Annual meeting and election of officers. Walter and Harriette Klabunde will speak on their bird observations in the Caribbean and show pictures.

October 26 - Report on the October Bird Count by Eugenia Praemassing. The speaker of the evening will be Dr. Allen Benton of the State University College at Fredonia.

November 9 - "Bird Observations at the State Line". Program with pictures by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neal of Sheffield, Pa.

November 23 - No meeting.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

October 9 - Fall Bird Count, Eugenia Praemassing, leader. For territory assignment call the leader at TF6-1618.

October 29-30 - Hawk Mountain trip. Call Robert Andrle for details, days TX6-5200; at other times, 649-5893.

Saturday, November 12 - Waterfowl trip to Chautauqua County, Frances Rew, leader (TA2-0342). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Abbott Road Plaza.

Sunday, November 20 - Niagara River for gulls, Mary Louise Emerson, leader (TT5-0067). Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 8:00 a.m.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegeny Ave., Kenmore, New York 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092.

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301.



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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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## THE MONTH

The average temperature during September was 2.7 degrees below the mean. Rainfall was one-half inch below normal. (Data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

Birding was at least as good as in the average September of the past eight years. On the rainy day of September 3, observers found several hundred warblers of twenty species among the dunes near the end of Morgan's Point; Chestnut-sided Warblers were the most common species.

More interesting gulls than usual during September were present in the Buffalo - Fort Erie portion of the Niagara River. Besides the three or four Franklin's and the five Little Gulls that could be seen most of the month, a Black-headed and two Sabine's Gulls made extended visits. The maximum of 6,000 Bonaparte's Gulls (my notes state "6,000 to 8,000," and the larger figure could as well be more correct) is more than in most Septembers. These gulls, along with several hundred Common Terns, the usual early-September maximum of about 5,000 Black Terns, plus some scores of Ring-billed Gulls, were feeding on the billions of caddis flies that emerge from the river and lake. In the late afternoon of the 18th, several thousand Common Terns were hawking for insects above the Canadian shore line of Lake Erie from Fort Erie to Lowbanks. This is unusual behavior for the Common Tern.

On the 23rd, a flock of 160 Sanderlings on the lawn near the Fort Erie Waterworks was the largest single flock of this species I have ever seen or known to occur in the Niagara Frontier Region. Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) give 217 as the maximum number of Sanderlings recorded in a single day, and these were counted along fifty miles of Lake Erie's Canadian shore on the annual B.O.S. Shorebird Count, September 7, 1959. It is good to read of the two separate reports of fifty or more Chipping Sparrows. This species, like many others, was reduced to only a fraction of its former abundance during the "disaster winter" of 1957-1958, and has been making a noticeable comeback for only about the past three years.



Some results of local observations on thrush migrations during this month are published in this issue, beginning on page - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year  
 F - indicates first record for the migration  
 L - indicates last record for the migration  
 (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	Sept. 1-30	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
	" 24F	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell, Lunardini
	" 27	1 over Hamburg	Bourne
Horned Grebe	" 19	2 Alfred	Klingensmith
D.-cr. Cormorant	" 24	1 over Waverly Beach, Ont.	Axtell, Lunardini
Common Egret	" 22	1 Oak Orchard	Benham
Canada Goose	" 12F, 13	13 Alfred	Klingensmith
	" 20	20 over Waverly Beach, Ont.	Axtell
Gadwall	" 10	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham
Shoveler	" 7	1 Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Salisbury
Wood Duck	" 11	100 Cuba Marsh	Burtens
Greater Scaup	" 24F	6 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Axtell, Lunardini
Common Goldeneye	" 24	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger et al
Oldsquaw	" <u>22</u>	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitags
Turkey Vulture	" 24	2 Dunnville, Ont.	Axtell, Lunardini
<u>Goshawk</u>	" 17	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
	" 17	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
Sharp-sh. Hawk	" 11	1 over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	" 18	2 Allegany	Grzybowski
	" 24	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger et al
Cooper's Hawk	" 22, 23, 26	1 Wellsville	Burtens
Broad-w. Hawk	" 2	1 Belmont	Burtens
	" 3	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	" 6	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Grzybowski
	" 21	2 Wellsville	Burtens
	" 24	3 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger et al
Osprey	" 3	1 Lowbanks, Ont.	Benham
	" 6	1 Scio	Burtens
	" 25, 26, 28	2, 1, 1 Olean	Grzybowski
<u>Pigeon Hawk</u>	" 12	1 Lakeview	Bourne
Turkey	" 17	42 Alma	Burtens
	" 22	42 Wellsville	Burtens
	" 23, 26	18, 14 Wellsville	Burtens
American Coot	" 25	95 Prendergast Point	Sundell, Richardson
	" 25	306 Mayville	Sundell, Richardson
Amer. Golden Plover	" 10	4 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham
	" 17	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	" 20	25 Ft. Erie to Rose's Pt., Ont.	Axtell



Amer. Golden Plover	Sept. 22	50	Pt. Robinson, Ont.	Salisbury
"	24	2	Port Weller, Ont.	Burger et al
"	25	16	Dunnville, Ont.	Axtells et al
"	26,27	7,7	Elma	Danner, Schafer
"	29	2	Port Colborne, Ont.	Freitag
Upland Plover	" 1	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
"	1,4,6L	1,2,1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Willet	" 1	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
"	5	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Benham
"	10	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Benham
"	10	1	Lowbanks, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
"	13,15	1,1	Hamburg Town Park	Danner, Schafer
Knot	" 3	10	Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Andrle et al
"	10	30	Rockhouse & Grant Pt., Ont.	Benham
White-r. Sandpiper	" 3	1	Grant Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	24	1	Grant Pt., Ont.	Burger et al
"	24,25	6,6	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Axtells et al
Baird's Sandpiper	" 1	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	11	1	Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
"	1,3	4,4	Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	17	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
"	24,25	5,5	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Axtells et al
Dunlin	" 3F	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham
"	3F	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	15	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
"	29	24	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
Stilt Sandpiper	" 25	1	Prendergast Point	Sundell, Richardson
*Red Phalarope	" 27F	1	off Bird Island Pier	Andrle
			(collected)	
Northern Phalarope	" 12	1	Bayview	Bourne
Gr. Black-b. Gull	" 24	62	Port Maitland, Ont.	Benham
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	" 19	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtells
"	20	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
Franklin's Gull	" 2,6	1,1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
"	7	1	Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Salisbury
"	1-30	3-4	Fort Erie, Ont.	several observers
Bonaparte's Gull	" 20-23	6000	Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtells
			(maximum count for the month)	
Little Gull	" 1	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
"	3	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham et al
"	11	1	Queenston, Ont.	Andrle
"	20	1	Bay View	Bourne
"	20-27	2-5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	22	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
"	24	1	Queenston, Ont.	Burger et al
"	25	1	Squaw Island	Benham et al
"	25	4	Bird Island	Hess et al
* <u>Sabine's Gull</u>	" 24,27	2,1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
			(one collected on Sept. 27)	
"	25	2	off Squaw Island	Burger et al
Forster's Tern	" 10	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
"	24	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
"	25	2	Stow	Sundell, Richardson
"	25	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein

Caspian Tern	Sept. 3	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	" 3	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	" 10	2	Grant Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
"	" 18	1	Barcelona	Sundell
"	" 23	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	" 26	1	Wellsville	Burtens
Black-b. Cuckoo	" 1	1	Springbrook	Danner
"	" 1,4	1,1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	" 1-24	1-3	Springbrook	Danner
"	" 24	2	Belmont	Burtens
Yellow-sh. Flicker	" 24	50	Alfred	Klingensmith
Red-h. Woodpecker	" 5,7	5,4	Belmont	Burtens
"	" 7	1	Jamestown	Sundell
"	" 8	1	Batavia	Buckland
"	" 10,27	1,1	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	" 14	4	Belmont	Burtens
"	" 23,26	3,1	Wellsville	Burtens
"	" 28	1	Caneadea	Burtens
Gr. Crest. Flycatcher	" 24	1	Buffalo	Wendlings et al
"	" 25L	4	Allegany	Grzybowski
Least Flycatcher	" 1	2	Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Freitags
"	" 6	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Wood Pewee	" 25-28	3-6	Allegany	Grzybowski
Olive-s. Flycatcher	" 5	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Tree Swallow	" 24	175	Dunnville, Ont.	Burger et al
"	" 25	100	Fort Erie, Ont.	Hess et al
Bank Swallow	" 4,5L	3,1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Barn Swallow	" 24L	6	Silver Bay, Ont.	Wendling
Purple Martin	" 15	948	Erie Beach, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
"	" 25	350	Fort Erie, Ont.	Hess et al
Tufted Titmouse	" 1-30	2-3	Lewiston	Klabundes
Winter Wren	" 12F	1	Batavia	Buckland
Mockingbird	" 5	1	Scio	Burtens
"	" 18	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
"	" 22	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yaki
Hermit Thrush	" 23F-30	1-3	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	" 23F	1	Wellsville	Burtens
Swainson's Thrush	" 7-24	15-35	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
(present all month; much smaller numbers before and after above dates)				
Gray-ch. Thrush	" 5F	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	" 5F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Benham
"	" 9	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk.	Bourne
"	" 9-30	1-25	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Veery	" 1-16	1-6	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	" 6	2	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
Eastern Bluebird	" 5-27	10	Belmont	Burtens
"	" 16	29	Wellsville	Burtens
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	" 10	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
"	" 12	1	Hamburg	Bourne
"	" 15	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
Golden-cr. Kinglet	" 19	2	Allegany	Grzybowski
"	" 24	1	Silver Bay, Ont.	Wendling
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	" 24	3	Silver Bay, Ont.	Wendling
Water Pipit	" 17	12	Grant Point, Ont.	Benham
Cedar Waxwing	" 8,9	500	Scio to Belmont	Burtens



Loggerhead Shrike	Sept.	3	1	Stromness, Ont.	Benham
	"	3	1	Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	15	1	Lakeview	Bourne
Yellow-thr. Vireo	"	7L	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Solitary Vireo	"	11F, 25	1, 1	Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	24	1	Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Wendlings et al
	"	24	1	Silver Bay, Ont.	Wendling
	"	25	2	Nye Road, Ont.	Axtells et al
Philadelphia Vireo	"	28	1	East Eden Pond	Bourne
Warbling Vireo	"	19	1	Olean	Grzybowski
	"	25L	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
*Worm-eating Warbler	"	3	1	Lakeside Cem., Hamburg	Bourne
Blue-w. Warbler	"	3	1	Lakeside Cem., Hamburg	Bourne
	"	18L	1	Lakeside Cem., Hamburg	Andrle
Orange-cr. Warbler	"	19F	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	25, 26	1, 1	Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	25, 27	1, 1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Parula Warbler	"	15	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	24	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Salisbury, Benham
	"	25	1	Kraft Road, Ont.	Axtells et al
Blackpoll Warbler	"	1F	1	Grand Island	Benham
	"	8	2	Erie Beach, Ont.	Freitag
Palm Warbler	"	7F	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	7F	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
Connecticut Warbler	Sept.	3	1	Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	"	9	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Mourning Warbler	"	23L	1	Port Robinson, Ont.	Salisbury
Yellow-br. Chat	"	23	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Bobolink	"	5L	1	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	5L	2	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Baltimore Oriole	"	21L	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Rusty Blackbird	"	22F	1	Belmont	Burtens
	"	28	20	over Allegany	Grzybowski
Scarlet Tanager	"	24, 28	2, 1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	28	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Rose-br. Grosbeak	"	28	2	Allegany	Grzybowski
Pine. Siskin	"	19F	2	Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	25	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yaki
Red Crossbill	"	14	2	Eden	Bourne
Slate-col. Junco	"	3F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	5	2	Belmont	Burtens
Chipping Sparrow	"	12-19	54	(max.) Springbrook	Danner
	"	19	50	Wellsville	Burtens
Field Sparrow	"	13	50	Belvidere	Burtens
Fox Sparrow	"	27F	2	Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Axtell
	"	28	1	Delaware Pk., Buffalo	Benham
White-cr. Sparrow	"	23F, 24	1, 4	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	24, 27	1, 2	Belmont	Burtens
White-thr. Sparrow	"	5F	3	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	6	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
Lincoln's Sparrow	"	5F	1	Como Pk., Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	10-30	1-3	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells

Species previously recorded this year: 262

Additional species recorded this issue: 3

Total for 1966: 265

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESREPORT OF THE "HAWK CLIFF" WEEKEND TRIP - SEPTEMBER 17-18

Twenty BOS members enjoyed a relaxed weekend at "Hawk Cliff" near Port Stanley, Ontario, observing the hawk flight September 17-18. Three of the party went early on Friday because of the favorable weather pattern following a cold front which came through Buffalo on Thursday. Unfortunately they arrived too late. The hawks did follow the cold front at Hawk Cliff, but on Thursday, September 15th, 2700 were seen there by one lone observer. Only 184 hawks were seen on Friday. Saturday, when the winds were light and from the west, only 95 hawks were counted. Although the wind shifted to the hoped-for east-northeast direction on Sunday, the count for the day only increased to 354.

The breakdown of the counts for the three days was as follows:

	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	67	51	303
Sparrow Hawk	44	6	35
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	2
Broad-winged Hawk	64	4	4
Red-tailed Hawk	3	1	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1	0
Marsh Hawk	3	10	8
Osprey	0	0	1
Unidentified	2	22*	1
TOTAL	184	95	354

\*Considered Broad-winged Hawks by several observers.

The great majority of the hawks went by at quite a distance, more than a quarter mile away, which may have resulted in some Cooper's Hawks being passed off as Sharp-shinned Hawks. However, near the end of the count on Sunday, the Osprey turned out to be a "people watcher". He came directly over the group no more than forty feet up.

A side light feature of the weekend was the Northern Phalarope seen in the Port Stanley Harbor by some members, at a distance of twenty feet or less.

WALTER KLABUNDE, Leader



TRIP TO CANADIAN SHORE OF LAKE ERIE - SEPTEMBER 25, 1966

Eleven birders participated in the BOS trip along the Canadian shore on September 25. At Edgemere Road near Kraft Road we encountered numbers of warblers, thrushes, and other small land birds, among which the most interesting was a Parula Warbler. At the Axtells' on Rose Hill Road there were unusually good opportunities to study and compare the calls of Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrushes, and there was a quick glimpse of a Lincoln's sparrow. Yacht Harbor presented a good variety of shorebirds. Seeing two Solitary Vireos together near the west end of Nye Road was satisfying, in view of the scarcity of this species during the past nine years. Morgan's Point as usual had attracted a good-sized flock of warblers and other arboreal perching birds that gave us plenty of exercise -- physical, mental, and emotional. Grant Point with its many shorebirds, some species showing a fine assortment of plumage variations, was, as we have come to expect, very rewarding. On the return trip, fifteen Golden Plover were in a plowed field, and a little later another flew across the road above our cars. Appropriately, the high point of the trip was at our last stop, Fort Erie, where we picked out and watched at length the Sabine's Gull that had been reported there the previous day. The total for the trip came to 84 species, including 15 kinds of shorebirds and 14 of warblers.

HAROLD H. AXTELL

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT UNVEILS NEW VOLUME ON BIRDS

The story of birds and how they have influenced art, music, literature, science, religion and all other phases of man's culture is told in a unique, 576-page book recently published by the Department of the Interior.

Produced by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the new book involved the work of 61 authors, many of them private citizens who contributed chapters dealing with their specialties. Bob Hines, well-known staff artist of the Bureau, produced 80 original wash drawings for the volume, which also includes 372 photographs and a full-color frontispiece of a bald eagle.

Birds in Our Lives is the second in a projected series of books on the Nation's wildlife resources. It was edited by Alfred Stefferud and Dr. Arnold Nelson, and promises to become a classic in North American ornithological literature, equalling the success of the first volume in the series, Waterfowl Tomorrow, published a year ago. Contributors of the 54 chapters include Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, Dr. Willard F. Stanley, John Kieran, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Ernest Mayr, Allen D. Cruickshank, Ira Gabrielson, Ernest Swift, and Carl Buchheister.

The new book is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, at \$9.00 a copy.

A REPORT OF THE 1966 NESTING SEASON ON THE B. O. S. WILDLIFE REFUGE

by HARRIETTE and WALTER KLABUNDE

To gather data on the nesting activity in the Buffalo Ornithological Society's Wildlife Refuge on Grand Island, 30 surveys were made between April 30 through September 11. When a nest was located it was given a number and marked with a strip of masking tape affixed to a twig near the nest. Its height above ground and the type of vegetation were noted and the nest site was located on a map of the Refuge by the coordinates using east-west by north-south references as described in The Prothonotary, Vol. 32, No. 3, March 1966, p. 38. By this procedure it was possible to find and check known nests on subsequent visits.

As the season progressed it became more difficult to cover the entire refuge, and the woods and dense areas on the northwest section were not always checked thoroughly. We missed two Red-eyed Vireo nests and one Wood Thrush nest found later in the woods. We also found an earlier Cardinal nest on the southwest edge of the woods. The behavior of other pairs of Towhees, Orioles and Scarlet Tanagers indicated nests we did not find. At least two pairs of Wood Pewee were always present in the woods and probably nested there. One pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks must have had a nest on the north edge of the woods, because they always appeared and scolded when we passed. The behavior of Field and Song Sparrows with young indicated more successful nests than our report shows.

One pair of Flickers nested on the south boundary of the Refuge, and young Flickers were seen in the area. Young Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, and young White-breasted Nuthatches were seen in the woods. A family of Black-capped Chickadees moved about the Refuge. Eastern Kingbird and Crested Flycatcher were frequently seen and heard on the Refuge.

Occasionally we followed alarm notes to nests just outside the Refuge boundaries. These are included in this report and are indicated by \*\*. They represent all the nesting activity in a strip about 100 feet wide east and west of the field areas of the Refuge.

Predation was especially evident during May when the nests were conspicuous. Fresh raccoon tracks were frequently seen in damp areas in the paths. A skunk was seen in July. Squirrels and Grackles were always skulking in the woods.

The survey on June 17 was too brief to check many nests. As a result our information for the period from June 11 to June 26 is quite inadequate. It is safe to assume that young were hatched and successfully fledged from nests which were well-established on June 11.

NESTING RECORDS

Woodcock	nest on ground near thicket at 3-11 5/30-3eB, 6/2-same. 6/3-eggs broken
Mourning Dove	6', pear tree, 3.9-12.6 7/12-2eB, 7/23, 30-2y B, 8/3-young leaving nest
Black-b. Cuckoo	6', hawthorn, 2.7-12.2 8/3-3e, 9/6, 11-no change, nest deserted



Traill's Flycatcher 3', hawthorn, 2.5-11.2  
7/16-3 young leaving nest

Tree Swallow a) nest box, 2-N3  
6/5-5e B, 6/17-2y B, 6/26-same, 7/2-young out  
b) nest box, 0-10  
6/5-brooding, 6/26-3y B, 6/29-young out of nest

Blue Jay 6', hawthorn, 11.5-13.5  
6/5-4 well-grown young 6/11-young gone

House Wren nest box, 3-N6  
5/29-xeggs, 7/2-7e B, 7/20 young out of nest

Catbird a) 3', hawthorn, 0.5-4.5  
5/29-3eB, 6/11-3y B, 6/26-young out of nest  
b) 3', hawthorn, 1.7-13  
5/29-3e B, 6/11-5e B, 6/26-2 well grown young  
c) 10', hawthorn, 3-N5.9, (near Wren box)  
5/30-1e, 6/26-empty  
d) 10', hawthorn, 3-N5.8  
6/26-1 young just out of nest  
e) 7', hawthorn, 1.5-11.5  
6/5-3e B, 6/11-B, 6/26-empty  
f) 8', hawthorn, 4-11.5  
6/5-nest, 6/21-empty, 7/6-Catbird on nest  
g) 4', hawthorn, 5-11  
6/5-nest, 6/11-1e, 6/26-empty  
h) 5', hawthorn, 3-9.2  
6/29-1e, 7/2-3y, 7/12-young leaving nest  
\*\* i) 5', hawthorn, 50' west N7.2  
7/30-2y, well-grown, 8/3-young gone

Brown Thrasher a) 4', hawthorn, 0.5-12.5  
5/3-nest, brooding, 5/14-nest empty  
b) 4' half-dead fruit tree, 7.5-11.2  
6/5-B, 6/26-3e, 6/29, 7/2, 6-no change, deserted  
c) 3', hawthorn, 1.0-10.6  
6/26-brooding, 7/2-3y, 7/6-young gone  
d) 3', hawthorn, 0.2-5.5  
6/29-3e B, 7/2-3y B, 7/12-3y(large), 7/16-young out  
e) 5', hawthorn, 2-11.0  
7/9-1e B, 7/12-3e B, 7/16-brooding, 7/23-empty

Robin a) 2', pear tree, N9  
4/30-2e, 5/1-3e, 5/3-nest empty  
b) 2', pear 2-N6  
4/30-4e, 5/3-brooding, 5/14-nest empty  
c) 3', pear 2.2-11.25  
4/30-2e, 5/1-3e, 5/3-B, 5/14-nest empty  
\*\* d) 5', pear 30' west N10  
5/3-3e, 5/14-21-brooding, 5/29-nest empty  
e) 3', hawthorn 1-11.4  
5/14-nest, 5/21-3e B, 6/11-2y, 6/26-young gone  
f) 5', apple tree 3-N1  
5/29-4e B, 6/11-xy, 6/17-3y B, 6/26-young gone

- Robin (continued)g) 4', pear 4-11.5  
5/30-2e, 5/5-3e B, 6/11-2y B, 6/26-young gone  
h) 8', hawthorn 11.3-13  
6/26-3e, 6/29-2y B, 7/12-young leaving nest  
i) 5', hawthorn 4.6-13  
6/29-4y B, 7/2,6,9-same, 7/12-young leaving nest  
j) 4', hawthorn 7.9-11.5  
7/12-nest, 7/16-3e B, 7/23-B, 7/30-young out  
\*\* k) 5', hawthorn 20' east N10.6  
7/30-3 well-grown young, 8/3-young out
- Wood Thrush a) 23', maple 4.5-0.5  
5/21-building nest, 5/24,30,6/5-no activity  
b) 10', beech 12.2-7  
5/30-brooding, 6/5,12-same, 6/26-nest empty  
c) 9', beech, 10.5-10  
5/30-new nest not used  
d) 5', viburnum 2-5  
5/30-1e, 6/5-B, 6/11-3e B, 6/17-2y, 6/29-y out  
e) 14', hornbeam 5.5-6  
7/16-brooding, 7/23-2 well-grown y, 7/30-y out
- Cedar Waxwing 7', hawthorn N8 beside path  
8/6-4e B, 8/13-1y,3e B, 8/17-3y B, 8/23-3y left n
- Red-eyed Vireo 15', maple 2.1-0.1  
5/29-working on nest, 6/5,11-B, 6/26-feeding y off n
- Yellow Warbler a) 4', hawthorn 6-12  
5/29-n, 6/5-5e B, 6/11-same, 6/26-1e  
\* b) 5', apple tree 6-11  
5/29-1e, Cowbird, 6/29-all trace of nest gone  
c) 7', hawthorn 3-5N  
5/29-B, 6/11-4e B, 6/17-B, 6/26-nest empty  
\*\* d) 4', hawthorn 30' west N8.3  
5/29-1e, 5/30-2e, 6/5,11-5e B, 6/26-1e  
e) 11', hawthorn 12.5-12 (near Blue Jay nest)  
5/30-xe, 6/11-no trace of nest  
\* f) 3', Multiflora rose 1-9  
5/30-1e, 6/1-1e+1Ce, 6/2-empty, 6/5-nest torn up  
\* g) 3', hawthorn 1-12.7  
5/30-1e+2Ce, 6/5-4e, 6/11-5e B, 6/26-1y, 6/29-2e  
h) 8', hawthorn 4-12  
5/30-nest, 6/11-3e, 6/17-all trace nest gone  
i) 7', hawthorn 3-N2  
5/30-nest, 6/5-4e, 6/11-nest empty  
j) 9', hawthorn in dense thicket at 11.2-11.2  
5/30-1e, 6/11-nest lost  
k) 8', hawthorn 1-8  
6/5-working on nest, 6/11-nest gone  
\* l) 5', hawthorn 2.0-11.7  
6/5-nest, 6/11-2e+2Ce, 6/17-4e B, 6/26-2y, 6/29-0  
m) 7', hawthorn 4-11.6  
6/11-4e B, 6/26-xy  
n) 6', hawthorn 3-12.5  
6/11-5e B, 6/26-nest empty



Yellow Warbler  
(continued)

- o) 8', hawthorn 4.5-12.5  
6/11-1e, 6/26-nest empty
- \* p) 7', hawthorn 3.5-9  
6/29-2y+1y Cowbird, 7/2-1y well-grown, 7/6-n empty
- \* q) 3', hawthorn 7.8-11.5  
6/29-3e+1Ce, 7/2-3e B, 7/12-2y B, 7/16-nest out
- \* r) 5', hawthorn 2.8-N3  
6/29-3e,2y, 7/2-1y+1y Cowbird, 7/9-1e
- s) 3', hawthorn 4-11  
7/6-1y, 7/9-same B, 7/12-nest empty
- \*\*\* t) 6', hawthorn 10.5-12.5  
7/12-1y B, 7/16-1y, well-grown, 7/20 empty
- u) 3', gray-stem. dogwood 3.6-N5.5  
7/24-1e (nesting completed)

Red-w. Blackbird

- a) 8', gray-stem. dogwood 10' east N4  
\* 4/30-nest, 5/3-4e, 5/14-nest empty
- b) 5', gray-stem. dogwood 3-12  
5/21-nest, 5/29-no activity
- c) 7', gray-stem. dogwood 8-13.2  
5/30-nest, 6/11,29-no activity
- d) 5', hawthorn 9-11.5  
5/30-nest, 6/11,7/6-nest not used
- e) 6', gray-stem. dogwood 5-10.5  
6/5-4e B, 6/17-4y, 6/26-young out of nest
- f) 5', gray-stem. dogwood 6-12.5  
6/5-nest, 6/26-empty nest
- g) 5', gray-stem. dogwood 2.5-13.3  
6/11-3e B, 6/26-nest empty

Baltimore Oriole

- 20', maple 3.2-N4.8  
6/1-nest, 6/11,26-adults nearby, scolding, 7/6-0

Cowbird

- a) Yellow Warbler nest 5', apple tree 6-11  
5/30-1e, removed
- b) Yellow Warbler nest 3', Multiflora rose 1-9  
6/1-1e, removed
- c) Yellow Warbler nest 3', hawthorn 1-12.7  
5/30-2e, removed
- d) Yellow Warbler nest 5', hawthorn 2-11.7  
6/11-1e, removed
- e) Towhee nest on the ground 2-5  
6/5-2e, removed
- f) Yellow Warbler nest 7', hawthorn 3.5-9  
6/29-1y, removed
- g) Yellow Warbler nest 3', hawthorn 7.8-11.5  
6/29-1e, removed
- h) Yellow Warbler nest 5', hawthorn 2.8-N3  
7/2-1y, removed
- i) Yellow Warbler nest 6', hawthorn 10.5-12.5  
7/20-double nest, 1 Cowbird egg buried

Scarlet Tanager \*\*

- 6', oak 50' east 1-0.2  
7/23-2e B, 8/3-ey B, 8/6-1y B, 8/13-young gone

- Cardinal 7', hawthorn 0.1-5.6  
7/12-2e, 7/16,24-B, 7/30-2y B, 8/3-young gone
- Goldfinch a) 5', hawthorn 2-10  
7/12-nest, 7/23-empty nest, 8/3-nest torn up  
b) 6', hawthorn 11-12.5  
7/16-nest, 7/30-6e, 8/6-4e B, 8/9-4y B, 8/17-same  
\*\* c) 5', hawthorn 20' east N10.5  
7/30-6e B, 8/3-same, 8/6-nest torn up  
d) 5', hawthorn 0.3-5.2  
8/3-6e B, 8/13-4y B, 8/24-young out of nest  
e) 4', hawthorn 0.4-8.1  
8/6-7e B, 8/9-same, 8/13-nest torn up  
\*\* f) 6', hawthorn 20' east N3.5  
8/6-4y, well-grown, 8/17-young out of nest  
\*\* g) 6', hawthorn 10' south of line at 0.5-13.7  
8/9-5e B, 8/13, 17-same, 8/24-nest empty  
h) 5', hawthorn 1-8.2  
8/24-5e B, 8/27,31-same, 9/6-5y B, 9/11-4y B  
\*\* i) 6', hawthorn 40' east N6  
8/31-5e B, 9/6-5y B, 9/11-5y B  
\*\* j) 5', hawthorn 40' east N10.4  
9/6-5 well-grown young B, 9/11-5y still in nest B
- Eastern Towhee \* nest on the ground at edge of woods at 2-5  
6/5-3e+2Ce, 6/12-2e, 1y, 6/17-3y, 6/26-young out
- Field Sparrow a) nest on ground under low pine branch at 3-10  
5/30-4e B, 6/12-2y,2e B, 6/17-1e, young out of nest  
b) on ground at base of seedling hawthorn 1.8-5  
6/29-2e B, 7/2-1e B, 7/6-1y B, 7/9-nest empty  
c) 1', small hawthorn 1.0-9.5  
7/12-3y B, 7/16-nest empty, adults scolding nearby
- Song Sparrow a) on ground in grass near base pear tree 4-12  
6/11-5e B, 6/26-nest empty, young in nearby thicket  
b) on ground in low weeds 1.2-7.8  
6/11-2y,2e B, 6/17-nest empty, 6/26-young nearby  
c) 2', gray-stem. dogwood 0.2-8.2  
6/29-2e B, 7/6-nest empty  
d) 2', hawthorn N7.52  
7/9-2e B, 7/12, 20-same, 7/23-2y B, 7/30-same, 8/3-y  
out  
e) 2', hawthorn 1.0-7.5  
8/6-2y B, 8/9,13-same, 8/17-young out of nest

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Key: e - egg  
y - young  
n - nest  
B - eggs or young being brooded  
Ce - Cowbird egg  
x - number unknown  
\* - Cowbird egg or young, always removed  
\*\* - nest outside the Refuge boundary but within 10-50 feet  
\*\*\* - double nest with 1 Cowbird egg and 1 or more Yellow Warbler eggs in the bottom layer



SUMMARY

Approximately 55 pairs of 23 species nested and laid 89 sets of eggs. (Each Cowbird egg is assumed to be a set.) Fifty-three pairs of 20 species successfully fledged 135 young. Many more young may have been fledged as this report does not include species whose nests were not found.

To our knowledge no Cowbirds survived. Woodcock were seen later on the Refuge and may have had a successful nesting. The eggs in the nest of the Black-billed Cuckoo were cold to the touch when the nest was first discovered. A pair of Black-billed Cuckoos were seen on the Refuge on May 29 and 30, and again on June 5. They were heard calling during our surveys in August. Perhaps our brush-cutting activity around the pond in August disturbed these shy birds, or the eggs may have been infertile.

The Goldfinches made an impressive nesting record. Four of the 10 nests reported were disrupted. The other 6 nests fledged 27 young.

All but 6 of the 90 nests reported were in the field area of the Refuge, although this area covers only a fourth of the 46 acres

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE SOUTHWARD MIGRATION OF THRUSHES

AT ROSE HILL ROAD, ONTARIO, IN 1966

by Harold H. Axtell

Almost-daily observations on the southward migration of thrushes were made by the writer, often assisted by his wife, Rachel, at a small bird-study area at Rose Hill Road, between Fort Erie and Ridgeway, Ontario, during the summer and fall of 1966. The most regular and productive study time was from just before early dawn until about one or two hours after sunrise. In the early dawn, when the overhead migrants began to make their call notes heard, a listener could determine the identity of the migrating species, the direction of their flight, and their relative abundance. Near the middle of September it was usually possible to count approximately 100 calls per minute from thrushes overhead for about 15 or 20 minutes, with 5 or more additional minutes of fewer calls both before and after the peak. I believe, however, that any useful numerical estimate of the number of birds that issue these numerous sounds overhead is impossible. All figures given below refer to the approximate number of grounded, separate individuals actually seen or heard. The observers were within a three-acre area, though some of the birds counted might be as much as several hundred feet outside the area.

Thrush migration was apparently entirely nocturnal. Several times it was possible to recognize a spaced series of calls given by one migrating individual, showing that the direction of flight was approximately from north to south. With few exceptions, diurnal passerine migrants in late summer and



fall fly either east or west over this locality, their movements paralleling the north shore of nearby Lake Erie. The last of the thrushes came to earth each morning before there was sufficient light to identify them easily by color or markings. In this half-light, after first dropping down into trees or shrubs, many, but apparently not all of them, repeated over and over their typical call notes. In general, the more thrushes there were, the more vigorously and the longer each one called. Counting the number of the grounded birds that were calling in the early morning was the most useful basis on which to build the day's thrush count, even though some individuals were silent. Experience provided several additional techniques for adding still other individuals seen at this time or later, but presumably not heard in the dawn chorus.

The first evidence of thrush migration was noted just before dawn, August 20, when Veery call notes were heard from the sky above. The night calls of migrating Veeries increased during the next 10 or 11 days, achieving their maximum from about September 1 to 6, following which there were progressively fewer until the last one was recorded on the 16th.

Omitting until a later article the story of the abnormally early Swainson's Thrush that arrived August 12, the first birds of this species were heard August 28, and several were noted nightly thereafter. September 7, the first morning when there was a very noticeable increase in Swainson's Thrush migrants, was also the first morning with an appreciable reduction in Veeries. The number of Swainson's Thrushes maintained a constant, high peak from the 7th through the 24th, both as heard overhead in the early dawn, and as observed grounded during the day. Then a rapid decrease occurred during a three-day period, so that by September 27 only an occasional straggler remained. Only 3 or 4 were seen or heard during early October. An exceptionally late one was observed visiting a bird bath October 15.

After the first call notes of Gray-cheeked Thrushes were heard over Rose Hill Road September 9, this species increased during the next week, after which it maintained a maximum of both overhead migration activity and grounded numbers throughout the last half of the month. On the night of September 30-October 1, and again on the three following nights, many more Gray-cheeks departed than arrived, after which from the 4th to the 12th only one or two individuals were recorded each day at the study area. None were found after October 12.

The first Hermit Thrush appeared September 23. From 1 to about 3 (or 5 at most) were recorded almost daily thereafter until about the middle of October.

No certain signs of Wood Thrush migration were noted. Not more than one individual of this species was recorded in any one day, and evidence suggests that at least some of these may have come from nearby localities, attracted by the many berries on the study area.

A summary of the numerical range of the daily counts of grounded individuals during the periods of maximum abundance for each species may be of interest: Wood Thrush, 0-1; Hermit Thrush, 1-3; Swainson's Thrush, 15-35; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 12-25; Veery, 1-6 (usually 1-3). Since the common call note of grounded Hermit Thrushes can be heard only a fraction as far as the notes of the other species, the proportion of Hermit Thrushes to the others may not have been quite so low in actuality as the above figures indicate.



Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) state that the maximum number of Gray-cheeked Thrushes recorded in a day in the Niagara Frontier Region, even on organized area-wide counts, is 14. In the present study most of the daily counts of grounded birds were higher than this throughout a two-week period, and if the number of overhead migrants that were heard could have been judged, it is certain that a day's count frequently would have been several times as great as the previously recorded maximum of 14. It is, of course, possible that this species may have increased. Another explanation for this disparity, however, based on observable facts, is that the Gray-cheek is one of the shyest and most secretive of birds, even more than the other thrushes, usually lurking in or quickly retreating to dense dark places where even the bird itself can seldom be seen, to say nothing of its identification marks. Previous records on this thrush were influenced by still other factors: the inadequacy of the field guides in clarifying how to identify it; the reluctance of many observers to report it because of its reputed scarcity and because of their lack of confidence in identifying it correctly; the fact that few birders can distinguish its call notes with certainty; and that in any case, still fewer are out birding at the early hour when Gray-cheeks are calling. Birders seldom misidentify it; they just let it go unidentified. These influences greatly outweigh the contrary effect produced by the frequent tendency to misidentify other thrushes and report them as Gray-cheeks. Especially Hermit Thrushes, less shy and also possessing gray cheeks and lacking a buffy eye ring, are regularly reported as Gray-cheeked Thrushes.

As with the Hermit Thrush, the number of grounded Veeries counted in proportion to Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes does not fairly represent this species. This is indicated by the Veery's greater proportion of overhead flight calls to ground counts. By this criterion, only between one-half and one-third as large a proportion of the grounded Veeries actually present were being counted as was accomplished with the other two species. This is explained by the fact that a grounded migrant Veery is much less likely to call than a Swainson's or a Gray-cheek, and if it does, it is vocal for a much shorter time. By any means of calculation, however, Veeries constitute only a small fraction of the total number of thrushes that migrate through here.

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#### NOTE

The last page of the August issue of the Audubon Field Notes carries a request by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology for old nesting records.

It says in part:

The nest-record program offers a special opportunity for many to go back in journals and notebooks of past years and abstract unpublished data on nesting records. This is one way to make up, partially at least, for the failure to collect such information more systematically in the past.

Particularly needed now are data on raptorial birds - hawks and owls - from prior years.....Analysis of such information should provide clues that will aid in the planning of new field research. Nest-record cards may be obtained from the North American Nest-Record Card Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 p.m. from September to June inclusive.

November 9 - "Bird Observations at the State Line". Program with pictures by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neal of Sheffield, Pa.

November 23 - No meeting.

December 14 - Regular meeting. Program to be announced.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, November 12 - Waterfowl trip to Chautauqua County, Frances Rew, leader (TA2-0342). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Abbott Road Plaza.

Sunday, November 20 - Niagara River for gulls, Mary Louise Emerson, leader. (TT5-0067). Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 4 - Niagara Peninsula, Dan Salisbury, leader. Meet at Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 8:00 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegeny Ave., Kenmore, New York 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092.

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Number 11

## THE MONTH

The average temperature in October was two degrees below the mean; total precipitation was 0.93 inches, 2.07 inches below normal. (Data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

The night of September 30 - October 1 produced one of the larger nocturnal migrations of the fall season. Especially striking were the departure of most Gray-cheeked Thrushes and a spectacular arrival of very large numbers of White-throated Sparrows - so large that to make any approximate numerical judgement was practically impossible, and I have preferred not to record any adequate estimate for any locality on October 1. The published figure of 275 for Rose Hill Road is based on counts made on subsequent days after considerable reduction in the numbers present during the morning of October 1.

Almost daily observations were made west of Fort Erie at Rose Hill Road, where the north shore of Lake Erie serves as a barrier to some autumn diurnal migrants, causing them to turn east or west and fly parallel with the shore. Notable diurnal migrations were observed here on the 2nd, 8th, 11th, and 23rd. Several hawks migrated over eastward on each of these days, and swallows flew westward on each of the first three. Among the many other species seen migrating on at least two or three of these dates, Red-headed Woodpeckers were going westward, icterids eastward, Bluebirds southward, and an assortment of water birds mostly southward. Flying westward almost from dawn to dusk, Chimney Swifts were especially noticeable. The largest number passed on October 2, sample counts indicating that a total of about 2600 passed along the mile-wide flight-observation strip just inland from Lake Erie. Other sample counting on October 4th, 8th, 9th, and 11th showed that on each of these days between several hundred and 2,000 Chimney Swifts flew westward along the same strip. Apparently the biggest migration of black-birds during the fall season at this locality occurred on the morning of the 23rd. All were flying eastward. Most were at unusual heights, one flock of about 400 Red-winged Blackbirds which was migrating at between 2,200 and 2,500 feet (approx.) being the highest I recall ever having seen icterids fly.



Blackbird species in this same area coming from roosts fly westward and also tend to fly at lower altitudes and earlier in the morning.

The Long-billed Dowitcher on the 23rd is the latest B.O.S. record for this species. The Black-headed Gull collected on the 13th is the first specimen for the Niagara Frontier Region, as is the Sabine's Gull that was taken in September. There have been more than the usual number of migrating Red-headed Woodpecker and Bluebird sightings this fall. The Dickcissel reports from a feeding station at Rose Hill Road represent two individuals.

There were so many unusual observations this month that 52 reports required verifying write-ups. Fifty verifications were submitted - the largest number ever received in one month. As usual, some were judged to be inadequately convincing and were withheld from publication, the most common reason being insufficient information about the observed identifying characters, as required in Item #13 of the B.O.S. Verification Form.

A Cedar Waxwing's nest in an old orchard at Shale Creek Nature Center in Chestnut Ridge Park, first found September 24 by David Bigelow, contained two fully-feathered young on October 1. The previous latest Western New York record for young Waxwings in the nest was September 10, 1917.

Probably the rarest species to be found in our region since the Rock Wren was the Sage Thrasher, collected five miles north of Welland, Ontario, on October 20, by Dan Salisbury. This is the first specimen for Ontario. The first record east of the Mississippi River was April 12, 1942, when one was collected west of Rochester - a locality included at that time in the B.O.S. study area. There have been sight records during the past few years at Point Pelee, Ontario, and in Pennsylvania. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	Oct. 1-31	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
	" 13	1 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Axtell, Morrin
	" 23,24	5,1 over Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	" 25	1 Allegany State Park	Webster
	" 29	10 Somerset	Benham
Red-necked Grebe	" 12F	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham
	" 18	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	" 30	2 Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski
D.-cr. Cormorant	" 6	2 Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
	" 29	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
	" 30	1 Niag.-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Salisbury et al



Vol. 32, No. 11 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Green Heron	Oct.	1,2	2,2	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
	"	2	1	Forest Lawn, Buffalo	Freitag
B.-c. Night Heron	"	15	2	Beaver Island St. Park	A. Ulrich et al
	"	23	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Benham
American Bittern	"	10	1	Buffalo	Kikta
	"	16	1	Youngstown	Klabundes
Canada Goose	"	16	200	Batavia	Buckland
(maximum count for the month)					
Brant	"	31	1	Hamburg Town Park	Csont et al
Mallard	"	3	200	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
Gadwall	"	1,2,3	3,1,1	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
	"	29	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	A. Ulrich et al
Pintail	"	3F	2	East Aurora	Schafer
	"	14	3	Beaver Island St. Park	A. Ulrich, L. Cummiskey
American Widgeon	"	1F	7	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
	"	14	30	Beaver Island St. Park	A. Ulrich, L. Cummiskey
Shoveler	"	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	16	1	Beaver Meadow Refuge	Rybczynski et al
	"	16	7	Mayville	Rew, Swanson
	"	20	7	Oak Orchard GMA	Ulrichs
	"	22	5	Mayville	Sundell, Richardson
Wood Duck	"	1,2	75,50	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
	"	16	40	Allegany	Grzybowski
Redhead	"	14	4	Beaver Island St. Park	A. Ulrich, L. Cummiskey
	"	16	18	Mayville to Prendergast Point	Rew, Swanson
Ring-necked Duck	"	2F	3	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
	"	26	1	Buffalo	Kikta
Canvasback	"	3F	2	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
	"	27	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	30	15	Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski
Greater Scaup	"	30	6800	Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski
Common Goldeneye	"	1	4	Niag.-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Bufflehead	"	12	9	Hamburg Town Park	Schafer
	"	16	1	Mayville	Rew, Swanson
Oldsquaw	"	27	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	29	1	Niagara Gorge, Ont.	A. Ulrich et al
White-w. Scoter	"	1F	8	Niag.-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	6	18	Athol Springs	Bourne
Surf Scoter	"	4F	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	7	6	Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtell, Morrin
Common Scoter	"	4F	1	Buffalo	Schafer
	"	8	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury, Benham
Ruddy Duck	"	16	11	Mayville	Rew, Swanson
	"	25	6	Allegany State Park	Webster
Hooded Merganser	"	2	4	Alfred	Klingensmith
Common Merganser	"	1F	4	Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski
Turkey Vulture	"	5	1	Batavia	Buckland
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	2	1	Bird Island	Burger, Brownstein
	"	8,11	2,2	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	12	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	30	3	Wellsville	Burtens

Vol. 32, No. 11 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Cooper's Hawk	Oct.	23	1	Springbrook	Schafer
	"	23,24	1,1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Red-tailed Hawk	"	2,23	10,7	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Red-shouldered Hawk	"	18	1	Hamburg	Schafer
Broad-winged Hawk	"	3	1	Wellsville	Burtons
Rough-legged Hawk	"	20F	1	over Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	23	1	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	29	6	Somerset	Benham
Osprey	"	1-31	1	Belmont	Burtons et al
	"	7,16	1,1	Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	11	1	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	22	1	Elma	Andrle
Turkey	"	7	40	Wellsville	Burtons
American Coot	"	16	2945	Bemus Pt. to Mayville	Rew, Swanson
	"	22	3500	Mayville	Sundell, Richardson
Amer. Golden Plover	"	22	2	Elma	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	22	6	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham
	"	23	2	Rose Hill Road, Ontario	Hess
	"	23,25	2,2	Elma	Danner, Schafer
Black-bell. Plover	"	22	117	Fort Erie, Ontario	Benham
American Woodcock	"	1	8	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Spotted Sandpiper	"	3L	1	East Aurora	Danner, Schafer
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	23	1	East Eden Pond	Andrle
Knot	"	12L	4	Miller Point, Ont.	Thills
Least Sandpiper	"	21L	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Benham
Short-b. Dowitcher	"	3L	1	East Aurora	Schafer
*Long-b. Dowitcher	"	23	1	East Eden Pond	Andrle
*Hudsonian Godwit	"	1	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury et al
Sanderling	"	2	96	Bird Island	Burger
Red Phalarope	"	1	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham, Grzybowski, Salisbury et al
	"	16	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Northern Phalarope	"	1L	8	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham
	"	1L	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham
<u>Black-headed Gull</u>	"	9	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtells, Clark
	"	12	1	Bird Island	Andrle
	"	13	1	Bird Island	Andrle
				(specimen collected)	
Franklin's Gull	"	1	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	2	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	2,4	1,1	Bird Island	Burger
	"	4	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	5	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
	"	10	1	Bird Island	Burger
	"	10	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury, Benham
	"	13	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle
	"	13	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtell, Morrin
	"	16	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham
	"	23,26	1,1	Bird Island	Burger, Congilio
Little Gull	"	1	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	2	2	Bird Island	Burger, Brownstein
	"	5	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
	"	10	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury, Benham
	"	12	3	Bird Island	Andrle
	"	22	2	Bird Island	Andrle



Vol. 32, No.11 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	Oct.	1	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury et al
	"	2	1	Bird Island	Burger
	"	5	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
Black Tern	"	1	300	Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	30L	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham et al
Whip-poor-will	"	13	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Axtell, Morrin
Common Nighthawk	"	10	1	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	22	1	Cheektowaga	Kikta, Rybczynski
Chimney Swift	"	2,8,460,80	over	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	4	450	Bird Island	Burger
	"	11L	160	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Pileated Woodpecker	"	22	1	Iroquois N. W. R.	A. Ulrich et al
Red-headed Wdpr.	"	9	4	Elma	Schafer
(maximum count for month)					
Eastern Phoebe	"	23L	1	Mud Lake, Ont.	Yaki
Yellow-b. Flycatch.	"	1	1	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
	"	1,2L	1,1	Springbrook	Danner
E. Wood Pewee	"	13,14	1,1	Belmont	D. Burton
	"	16L	1	Prendergast Point	Rew, Swanson
Tree Swallow	"	12L	2	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Rough-w. Swallow	"	1,4	3,25	Chippawa, Ont.	Grzybowski
Cliff Swallow	"	1	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury,
	"				Grzybowski et al
	"	2	1	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Purple Martin	"	1,4	400,100	Fort Erie to	
				Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	11,15	2,1	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	23	1	Waverly Beach, Ont.	Hess
Horned Lark					
( <u>E.a. alpestris</u> )	"	18	4	Elma	Danner
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-31	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	24-31	2	Athol Springs	Csont
House Wren	"	14L	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Winter Wren	"	5,12	1,1	Jamestown	Sundell
	"	7	1	Batavia	Buckland
Short-b. Marsh Wren	"	1L	2	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
Mockingbird	"	16	1	Olean	Grzybowski
	"	18	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	23,24	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	28,29	1	Athol Springs	Csont
	"	30	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yaki
	"	30	1	Jordan, Ont.	Salisbury
Brown Thrasher	"	16	1	Delaware Park, Buffalo	Freitag
	"	22-24	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
* <u>Sage Thrasher</u>	"	20	1	Welland, Ont.	Salisbury
(specimen collected)					
Wood Thrush	"	17	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Hermit Thrush	"	27	1	Buffalo	Rybczynski
	"	27	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
Swainson's Thrush	"	15L	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Gray-ch. Thrush	"	1-12L	1-8	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Eastern Bluebird	"	3	10	Delevan	Thill, Welch
	"	12	15	Springbrook	Schafer
	"	23	12	Kiantone	Sundell, Kibler

Vol. 32, No. 11 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Northern Shrike	Oct.	30F	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	30F	1	Jordan, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	31	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Solitary Vireo	"	30L	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Red-eyed Vireo	"	16,17,18L	1,2,1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Warbling Vireo	"	2L	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
Bl.-and-white Warb.	"	16L	1	Chautauqua	Rew, Swanson
Tennessee Warbler	"	22L	3	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells et al
Orange-cr. Warbler	"	1	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	1-11	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	6	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	"	17	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Nashville Warbler	"	17L	2	Allegany	Grzybowski
Magnolia Warbler	"	26	1	Dunkirk	Swanson et al
Cape May Warbler	"	16L	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Bl.-thr. Blue Warb.	"	23L	1	Dunkirk	Rew
Myrtle Warbler	"	12	50	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Thills
(maximum count for the month)					
Bl.-thr. Gr. Warb.	"	30	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Blackburnian Warb.	"	1,2	2,4	Springbrook	Danner
Bay-br. Warbler	"	16L	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Blackpoll Warbler	"	13	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Axtell, Morrin
	"	16L	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Palm Warbler	"	16L	1	Belmont	Burtens
	"	16L	1	Prendergast Point	Rew, Swanson
Ovenbird	"	11L	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
North. Waterthrush	"	14L	1	Town of Tonawanda	Webster
Wilson's Warbler	"	3L	2	Athol Springs	Csont
Canada Warbler	"	1	2	Cuba Marsh	Burtens
American Redstart	"	17L	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Scarlet Tanager	"	16,17,23L	3,1,1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Rose-br. Grosbeak	"	2	1	Delaware Park, Buffalo	Freitag
	"	2	2	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Indigo Bunting	"	12	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
	"	18L	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
*Dickcissel	"	11,12	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells et al
	"	23,24	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells et al
Pine Siskin	"	2	1	over Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	8	1	Buffalo	Hess
	"	12	2	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Thills
	"	13	1	Buffalo	Hess
Savannah Sparrow	"	12	1	Elma	Kikta, Schafer
Grasshopper Sparrow	"	23	1	Dunkirk	Rew et al
Tree Sparrow	"	22	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	28	3	Belmont	Burtens
	"	30	100	Jordan, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Chipping Sparrow	"	16	150	Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	29	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	A. Ulrich et al
Field Sparrow	"	16,23	50,40	Allegany	Grzybowski
Wh.-cr. Sparrow	"	10-12	60	Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
	"	16	100	Allegany	Grzybowski
Wh.-thr. Sparrow	"	1-12	275(max.)	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.(f)	Axtells
Fox Sparrow	"	1-31	1-12	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.(f)	Axtells
Lincoln's Sparrow	"	13	1	Windmill Point, Ont.	Axtell, Morrin
	"	1-16L	1-3	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.(f)	Axtells



Lapland Longspur	Oct.	30F	1 Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	30F	1 Jordan, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Snow Bunting	"	18F	1 Bird Island	Burger
	"	18F, 25	4, 1 Hamburg Town Park	Danner Schafer
	"	20	40 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne et al

Species previously recorded this year: 265  
 Additional species recorded this issue: 4  
 Total for 1966: 269

### GENERAL NOTES

Nesting of Broadwing Hawk at Kabob, Chautauqua County - Eaton, in his Birds of New York (1914), called the Broadwing Hawk almost unknown as a breeding species in Western New York, and his county list indicated that it was merely a transient visitant in Chautauqua County. Since that time the Broadwing has apparently increased as a breeding species in our area, although we have nesting records only from Cattaraugus County and southern Erie County, the majority of the records coming from the former. Since our Society had no data concerning the nesting of this species in Chautauqua County, I was most happy to be able to observe a successful nesting of a pair of Broadwings in that county this past summer.

On April 26, 1966, Mr. and Mrs. T. K. Swanson observed a pair of Broadwing Hawks flying over a fields adjacent to an extensive woodlot near Kabob, New York, and again on April 29 saw the two birds in trees beside the road. On May 1 the Swansons and I found both birds in the same area and located the nest which was easily visible from the road and approximately 50 yards into the woods. The nest was then decorated with hemlock and white pine twigs. On May 14 the nest could still be observed from the road as the trees were not yet in full leaf, and at that time a bird was sitting on the nest, apparently incubating. The nest was not again checked until June 11, at which time it could not be seen from the road. On approaching the nest, which was now decorated with fresh poplar twigs, as well as pine and hemlock, a bird flew from the tree, but remained in the immediate area, becoming quite agitated and calling constantly. From the ground it was impossible to see if there were young in the nest, although we thought it probable from the actions of the adult. On June 25 one downy young, perhaps two weeks old, could be seen, and on July 2 one young was observed, still downy except for the primaries and tail feathers, which were about two inches long. On July 9 we observed two young in the nest with body, wing and tail feathers dark, but heads still covered with white down. The last observation was made on July 16, when a fully-feathered young bird with only a little white down around the eye and on top of the head was found perched on a stub some four feet above the nest. It remained on this perch about 15 minutes and then left, flying quite strongly. Shortly thereafter an adult Broadwing appeared, flew to the nest tree and began calling. The young bird did not reappear and we could not locate it or the second in the vicinity of the nest.

The woodland in which this nest was located is in a valley some 2½ - 3 miles wide and 3 miles long, at an elevation of 1280 feet. The woods  
 (cont. on page 150)



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Annual B. O. S. Pymatuning Trip - September 24 - 25

The annual B. O. S. trip to Pymatuning took place on the weekend of September 24 - 25. In our car were Mrs. Helen McCauley, driver, Miss Viola Deboben, Miss Elva LeWin and myself. The day was cloudy, with a strong northerly wind, but this did not deter us from visiting Dunkirk Harbor en route to Presque Isle. Finding only gulls and terns in the harbor, we drove around Point Gratiot, where we saw many Sanderlings and 3 Semipalmated Plover on the shore, in spite of the heavy surf lashing the beach.

As we proceeded west along Route #5, Mrs. McCauley picked out a compact flock of Starlings ahead, flying fast and dodging and twisting as if to evade a predator, which I suspected would soon put in an appearance. Sure enough, a Peregrine Falcon appeared, following the Starlings closely, but not diving into the closely-knit flock. We had reached the Lake Erie State Park, into which the flock now disappeared. We drove into the park and saw the flock again, with one or two laggards, the Peregrine still following. The flock flew out of sight, but appeared shortly without the hawk and without any laggard, and it is possible that a less virile member of the flock fell prey to the Peregrine. This is nature's way of eliminating weak members of a species. This sight was the high spot of the day for me, since I had not seen one for several years.

We arrived at Presque Isle in time to meet the rest of our Buffalo party, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Liston, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bonser, and Mrs. John Bacon, at #1 Cabin, where we had lunch with many friends from Pennsylvania and Ohio. In the woods near the administration building the Stulls had set up nets for banding, and they could hardly get around fast enough to remove the many warblers, vireos, kinglets and sparrows from the nets. Among the birds banded or seen nearby were Red-headed Woodpecker; Sapsucker; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Swainson's Thrush; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Solitary, Red-eyed, and Warbling Vireos; Black-and-White, Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia, Cape may, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Wilson's Warblers; and American Redstart. A Scarlet Tanager in green plumage was also seen nearby. We drove out to the tip of the peninsula, where a Pomarine Jaeger had been seen earlier, but we found only gulls and terns, a few Coot and Widgeons.

The ladies at the Linesville Grange Hall put up a fine dinner with every place occupied. After dinner Dr. James R. Baxter, of Erie, Pennsylvania, showed us fine bird slides taken in the eastern states, including some of the shore birds at Presque Isle. After acting as toastmaster for the last time, I passed the gavel to Malcolm Waite, President of the Presque Isle Audubon Society. The date for the spring meeting in 1967 was set for the May 6 - 7 weekend. The after-dinner speaker will be Donald Strock of Grand River, Ohio, whose topic will be, "The Geologic History of N.E. Ohio and N.W. Pennsylvania."

After an early Sunday breakfast we walked out on the dike into the refuge, led by "Bingo" Shelby of the Pennsylvania Conservation Department. We saw many Wood Ducks, several Great Blue Herons and 1 Black-crowned Night heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, American Widgeon, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Shoveler and Lesser Scaup. Other birds seen during the



morning were 15 Chimney Swifts, 20 Tree Swallows, 1 Barn Swallow, Wood Pewee, and many warblers (the same species as seen at Presque Isle, plus Palm Warblers and Yellowthroat). Later, in a pond near the spillway, we found many shore birds, including Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Short-billed Dowitchers.

After dinner we visited the goose-rearing area. As we looked over the waterfowl and shore birds in a nearby pond, something startled the birds, causing them to leave in a great hurry. We looked for the cause, but could find none immediately. Later, a bird partly hidden at the edge of a nearby woods flew out into the open and lit in full sight; there we could clearly identify it as an adult Peregrine Falcon. To see two of this rare species within two days in this region is an experience which I will always remember.

Other birds of interest seen during the day were Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle and Osprey. En route home we passed through several showers, which had fortunately held off while we were "birdwatching." How lucky can one be?

Harold D. Mitchell

B. O. S. Trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pennsylvania - October 29 - 30, 1966

Eighteen members of the B. O. S. and other organizations traveled to Hawk Mountain on the weekend of October 29 - 30, 1966. The first day, Saturday, was fair and hazy, with fresh southwesterly winds which shifted toward the northwest and increased markedly late in the afternoon, as a rapidly moving cold front produced considerable cloudiness and lowered temperature.

The group had fine views of about 100 Red-tailed Hawks, as well as of lesser numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Marsh Hawks, and Turkey Vultures. The highlight of the day was the immature Golden Eagle that allowed everyone fine views as it glided past on the north side of the ridge at about 11:30 A.M. Between 500 and 600 Canada Geese moved over the mountain in several high-flying flocks in the afternoon.

The cold front moved so swiftly that Sunday brought greatly diminished northwest winds and mostly clear skies, with only a few Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Canada Geese, and Common Loons passing over the ridge. Another exciting event occurred in the morning, however, when the group was afforded an excellent observation of an immature male Goshawk, which came in low over the crest of the mountain and then rose to pass close to the Lookout.

Robert F. Andrle

THE IDENTIFICATION OF WINTER FINCHES AND GROSBEAKS IN FLIGHT

by Harold H. Axtell

Many field observers of considerable experience have gaps in their knowledge when they come to the identification of winter finches and grosbeaks in flight. Most of the species can be recognized under these conditions, however, if seen fairly well, especially if one knows their characteristic flight calls. All of them have a markedly undulating flight, conspicuously-notched tails, and a blunt look at their front end because of the stubby bill.

Evening Grosbeak

The Evening Grosbeak is the only bird of its approximate size so stocky and short-tailed that also has a very bouncing flight. Woodpeckers come closest, but even they are less stocky. The Grosbeak's large white wing patch is usually very conspicuous and verifies the identification. The commonest call note is surprisingly like the common chirp of a House Sparrow, especially when heard at a distance, but it is louder and more ringing in quality. It may be written variously as "chree-u," "klee-a," or "jreep."

Purple Finch

The Purple Finch is easy. One needs only to hear the diagnostic call note which can nearly always be heard when a Purple Finch flies over. It can be variously worded "tsurk," "tik," or -- my own preference -- "turk." It is very short and sharp, but not loud. It is a rather clear, hollow whistle, like blowing sharply into a small, empty rifle cartridge. Of all the species discussed here, this is the least gregarious and is the one least often seen flying in flocks.

Pine Grosbeak

The Pine Grosbeak on the wing is easily identified by sight alone if its approximate size is judged correctly. It is the only winter or late autumn bird which is very nearly as large as a Robin, with the same tail-to-body proportions as a Robin, and which bounces when it flies (except for the quickly distinguished shrikes). It is commonly seen in rather small, loose flocks or groups, but is also often alone. The flight call is characteristic. Most commonly it consists of one to three notes that may be variously worded, for example, "see tyer," "ee tyi," and "ee tyi tyer." This call has a clear, musical, though very slightly squeaky whistled tone, easily imitated by whistling these syllables in a high pitch. It is often said to resemble the call of a Yellowlegs, but it is not likely to be confused with one because the Grosbeak's second note is nearly always on a clearly different pitch from the first note (usually lower), the call seems less loud than that of a Yellowlegs, is much less forcefully emitted, and is sweeter in tone. It resembles more closely the flight calls of Goldfinch and Horned Lark, though it is not nearly so thin and squeaky as the latter, and sometimes it can be mistaken for the notes of one of these two species, especially at a distance.

Redpolls

A flock of Redpolls averages considerably paler than a flock of Siskins, and grayer than Goldfinches. The rest of the finches are larger than



these three. Also there is typically a very noticeable difference between the whitest and darkest individuals in a Redpoll flock; noticeable variation of this kind is lacking in winter flocks of the other small finches. A Redpoll's tail is considerably longer and a little narrower than the tails of the others. This is apparent under most conditions and with practice can be used as a means of identification. The persistently repeated flight call is the means by which most Redpolls are discovered and recognized, however. It may be syllabified variously as "chyu," "chi," or "chyer," and is usually given in groups of one to four or more staccato notes, at the rate of seven notes per second. The quality is primarily "chichy" (like saying "ch" in a loud whisper) and metallic (in this case, like hitting a bare telephone wire with a stone), with only a slight whistled quality. (See Pine Siskin and White-winged Crossbill.)

The Hoary Redpoll cannot safely be distinguished in flight.

### Pine Siskin

The Pine Siskin is like the Goldfinch in size, shape, and flight. Sometimes the long, pale yellow stripe in the wing can be seen as Siskins go by; if it can, this is diagnostic. They often form a tighter flock than Goldfinches do. This species has two kinds of common flight calls, one or both of which may be heard from a passing flock. The most distinctive one usually consists of two or three syllables very rapidly run together, so that the call is from about one-tenth to one-quarter of a second in length. The tone is a combination of nasal and sibilant (having an "s" sound) and is given with considerable emphasis. Some variations and syllabic interpretations are: "swee-a" (one of the commonest calls and one of its best syllabifications), "see-i," "cheesee," also three-syllabic "chsiweeyi," "tsiteeyi," "chitilit," and "tsyu-wee-yu," all these sounds always nasal and sibilant throughout. The accent is usually rather evenly distributed over all the syllables. A bird repeats this call every few seconds in flight. It is completely diagnostic.

The other common flight call of the Siskin somewhat resembles that of the Redpoll. It may be written "tyi," "chyu," "chi," or "jit." It has a decided nasal or whining tone and slight but noticeable amounts of "chichy," metallic, and sibilant tonal factors. It is reminiscent of the call of the Brown-headed Nuthatch. There are usually two to five notes in a group, given at the rate of about seven notes per second. Sometimes a series rises slightly in pitch throughout. It is readily distinguished from the similar "chichy" calls of Redpoll and White-winged Crossbill by the very prominent nasal or whining tone factor.

### American Goldfinch

The American Goldfinch sometimes has to be identified in winter by visual means alone. When this is the case, it is very commonly misidentified as Pine Siskin. This may be because some birders may not be accustomed to thinking of Goldfinches as dark-looking birds, as they are in the winter. Or, it may be that these birders think of Goldfinches as inseparable from their typical flight call -- as they are during late spring and summer -- so that in winter when they see a flock of small dark finches flying silently or emitting only an occasional single weak note, they assume that they cannot be Goldfinches and therefore have to be Siskins. The fact is, on the



contrary, that a flock of winter finches flying silently or with only an occasional scarcely audible note or two is more likely to be a flock of Goldfinches than anything else. A zealous and experienced use of binoculars on a flock of finches in flight will often reveal identification cues that a person might not expect could possibly be seen under the circumstances until he tries. Birds with undulating flight fold their wings against their body on the down-glide and then may show the same field marks they do when at rest. Thus, binoculars sometimes reveal the unstreaked bodies of flying Goldfinches. Since Goldfinches tend on the average to fly at less height and in less compact flocks than the other dark winter finches, one can make a tentative identification using these characteristics, preferably in combination with some others.

The usual syllabication, "per-chic-o-ree", for the Goldfinch's typical flight call is unnecessarily inaccurate and misleading. "Ti-tee-ti-ter," or "tyi-tyee-tyi-tyer," using the "y" to indicate the quick down-slur in each note, would be an improvement. The second note is usually the highest in pitch and sounds very slightly louder than the others. There may be from one to seven notes in a group, most typically four -- though, as a rule, fewer in winter. This call always has a sweet, musical, plaintive quality, unusual among flight calls of finches (but see Pine Grosbeak). In the late fall and winter Goldfinches do not seem to have quite the spirit that they do in warmer seasons, and at this time a Goldfinch often calls much less loudly and frequently, tends to give fewer notes in its call, and may even fly past without making its call heard at all. On cold winter days I have often seen a flock fly close past me and have heard only a single weak "tee" or a scarcely audible two-note "tyi tyee," most members of the flock remaining silent. Such calls as may be heard, however weak or abbreviated, still retain enough of the Goldfinch's sweet, musical, plaintive quality to be readily recognized.

### Red Crossbill

The Red Crossbill is so lacking in distinctive field marks that can be seen as it flies, and its flight call is so constantly given and so completely diagnostic that one not only can, but in most cases must rely on recognizing this species in flight by its call. The note is usually syllabified as "kip," "jip," or "pip," but no syllabication represents the sound adequately. Only an unusually good ear will detect that some individuals slur the note downward, in which case "chyip" or "tsyip" are fair interpretations, and others slur upwards, for which the syllabication might be written "quit" or "prit" ("preet" when a little higher pitched). The staccato notes are unusually emphatic and loud for so small a bird, the force with which they are voiced being one of the most distinctive characteristics. Authors generally avoid describing their quality. This says a good deal about the quality, however, because the fact is that it differs from any bird sounds that do possess clearly describable tonal characters. To step in where angels fear to tread, I might venture the description that the note is a very forcefully-delivered staccato whistle, its musical tone considerably reduced by a sibilant element and a slap-like factor. This description probably does not create a vivid sound-image in the mind of a reader. Perhaps it is best to advise learning the flight calls of all the other finches and to remember simply that the quality of the Red Crossbill's is entirely different from any of them. The rhythm is similar, however, the notes typically being given in groups of one to five or more, at the rate of four or five notes per second, with intervals of about half a second or more between groups.



White-winged Crossbill

The White-winged Crossbill may often be recognized in flight by the very conspicuous white wing bars combined with size and shape of the bird. Also, the bright pink color of the adult males in a flock is frequently visible at some distance.

Like the Siskin, the White-winged Crossbill commonly uses two very dissimilar flight calls, either or both of which may be heard as the bird flies overhead. Both are very different in quality from the Red Crossbill's call. One closely resembles the flight call of the Redpoll. It may be variously syllabified as "ch," "chi," or "chit." It is given at the rate of four to six notes per second, with one to four or more notes in a group and usually less than a second between groups. In quality it is a somewhat metallic "chichy" sound with a peculiar resonance. It differs from the Redpoll's call chiefly in being repeated at a speed between four and six (usually five) times a second instead of seven, in being less metallic, and in sounding louder and fuller or heavier like the note of the larger bird that it is.

The other note, a somewhat nasal and metallic whistled "wheent," "whing," or "we," closely resembles the common "pink" call of the Bobolink, but is quickly up-slurred, giving it a definite "w" or "wh" sound, and is enunciated with greater emphasis. Like the "chichy" call, it is given singly or in groups of notes. No other finch has a note at all similar.

In learning to identify winter finches and grosbeaks in flight, the most important factor is field experience with them.

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FALL BIRDING ON THE SEA COAST

by Edward C. Ulrich

The advent of fall always sparks that mysterious something in the physiology of birds, a spirit of restlessness that manifests itself in many ways. Flock sizes increase, both in numbers of individuals and species. The defensive attitude of territorial display disappears, and by early August the flocking of Robins shows the first signs of the fall gatherings. In middle and late summer shorebirds congregate in small numbers along the shelving stony shoreline and beaches and on the mudflats of inland waters. Starlings and mixed blackbirds suddenly appear in large flocks. Sparrows that have kept apart during the period of nest building and the fledging of young now congregate in groups of mixed species in fence rows and weedy fields. The first warblers come in loosely united groups, drifting along with the vagaries of weather. The local dabbling ducks, now plumaged after the summer molt, fly about in small detached groups. Songs, muted and interrupted, questioningly and querulously give indications of the inner changes in the birds that tolerate or welcome companionship but do not entirely brook familiarity. All of these signs precede and are a part of that phenomenon that occurs each fall, beginning slowly, but increasing in magnitude as the approaching fall fortells the coming winter.

These migratory movements reach their maximum by late September and early October, as wave after wave of migrants move southward ahead of the cold weather. Especially noticeable at this time is the sudden appearance of numerous fringillids in places where there were none on previous days.

Waterbirds, being hardier by nature, await the colder weather of late October and the coming blustery fall. Then they move, some coming from the north, all following the migratory routes over the flyways. These usually end at the seashore, in the marshes, bays, coves, inlets and at the feeding areas offshore. These are the places that then beckon land-bound man and arouse in him that same something which has set in motion the flights of these avian flocks. Along the coast the gatherings and mixed flights of alcids, northern gulls, seaducks, scaup, mergansers, and sometimes loons, offer an appeal that is hard to resist. Where then to go?

For a mixture of northern birds go to stony Cape Ann or Cape Charles, both near Gloucester, Massachusetts. Few experiences can give greater exhilaration than a coastal visit to these capes during the brisk weather of late November or December.

The possibility of southeast storm with gale winds may hold back the fall flight of Dovekies, but it keeps in the lees of the protecting coves Black-legged Kittiwakes, Murres, Shearwaters, the scoters and eiders and possibly a Harlequin. Flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers, more tolerant of bad weather, skim in long skeins close to the surface, unmindful of the spin-drift of wind and wave.

This same weather will keep the land birds sticking tightly to the bayberries and other shrubs in the hollows behind the sand dunes. There comes a lull in the weather and with it the increased possibility of large flights of Dovekies, confined to the shore by the turbulence of the passing storm. The romance of the sea, the sight of a storm-lashed coast, the clear, cold, bracing air of a bright fall day make a coastal visit in New England an experience never forgotten.

It is well to have advance reservations for overnight stays. For information on accommodations, write to the Chamber of Commerce, Gloucester, Massachusetts.

The more moderately tempered shore of New Jersey, with its many sand dunes, salt marshes and pools, attracts a greater variety and number of birds. Here the seabirds, dabbling ducks, Brant, lingering shorebirds, wintering hawks, and some land birds gather for haven and food.

The Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge, just north of Atlantic City, offers all of these during the fall and early winter. Two large impoundments, extending toward the ocean and enclosed by dykes, retain the water at a level which is most desirable for a waterfowl habitat. These dykes are flat-topped and are covered by a hard, graveled roadway of sufficient width for two passing cars, plus the addition of road shoulders wide enough for parking. They thus provide miles of safe space for auto roadside observation, for the most part with the ocean on one side and the extensive marshes on the other. Trees and underbrush cover a major part of the equally large or larger mainland section of the sanctuary, while around the headquarters buildings there are graded lawns and grassy slopes that extend toward the



marsh. All the surroundings are attractive to birds and provide a very interesting and exciting background of different biomatic conditions.

Brigantine is not the only attraction in New Jersey. Its many miles of sandy beaches give unobstructed opportunities for viewing the Atlantic Ocean and the possibility of seeing pelagic birds over the water. References to Pettingill's "Guide to Bird Finding" will well repay the novice who first visits New Jersey with its northern mountainous areas, central pine barrens and southern sandy plains

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General Note (cont. from page 140)

itself runs almost a mile alongside the road (north and south) and is likewise about one mile deep east and west. It is a second-growth, rather damp woods, made up chiefly of Aspen, Red Maple and cherry, with some hemlock and white pine. The shrub understory is thick and almost impenetrable in places, with the branches of arrowwood, witherrod and common winterberry interlacing. There are patches of phagnum moss and royal fern as well as other plants associated with wet woods. Most of our other nest of Broadwing Hawk are from more typical nesting habitats, i.e., wooded ravines or hilly areas near streams, and so it was of added interest to find the present nest in a location more readily associated with the Red-shouldered Hawk. The nest itself was in a 40-foot Aspen (Populus tremuloides) and was located in a crotch of the main trunk, about 28 feet from the ground and below the tree's foliage. Thanks are due to the Swansons and to Lois Buck and Fran Rathbun, who helped me in the observation of the nest. -Frances M. Rew

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PROGRAMS - MEETINGS

- December 19 - Assignment of territories for the Christmas Bird Count. Recent Books of Birds by Marie Wendling.
- January 11 - Report on the Christmas Census by Harold and Rachel Axtell. Assignment of territories for the January Waterfowl Count by Harold Mitchell. Study of ducks, using skins from the Museum's collection.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- December 26 - Thirty-eighth Annual Christmas Bird Count. Harold and Rachel Axtell, leaders, 405 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo (TT5-4251). Please contact the leaders for assignment of territories.
- January 15 - January Waterfowl Count. For assignment of territories please contact the leader, Harold Mitchell, 238 W. Royal Parkway, Williamsville 14221 (633-6612).

\*\*\*\*\*

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegeny Ave., Kenmore, New York 14217.

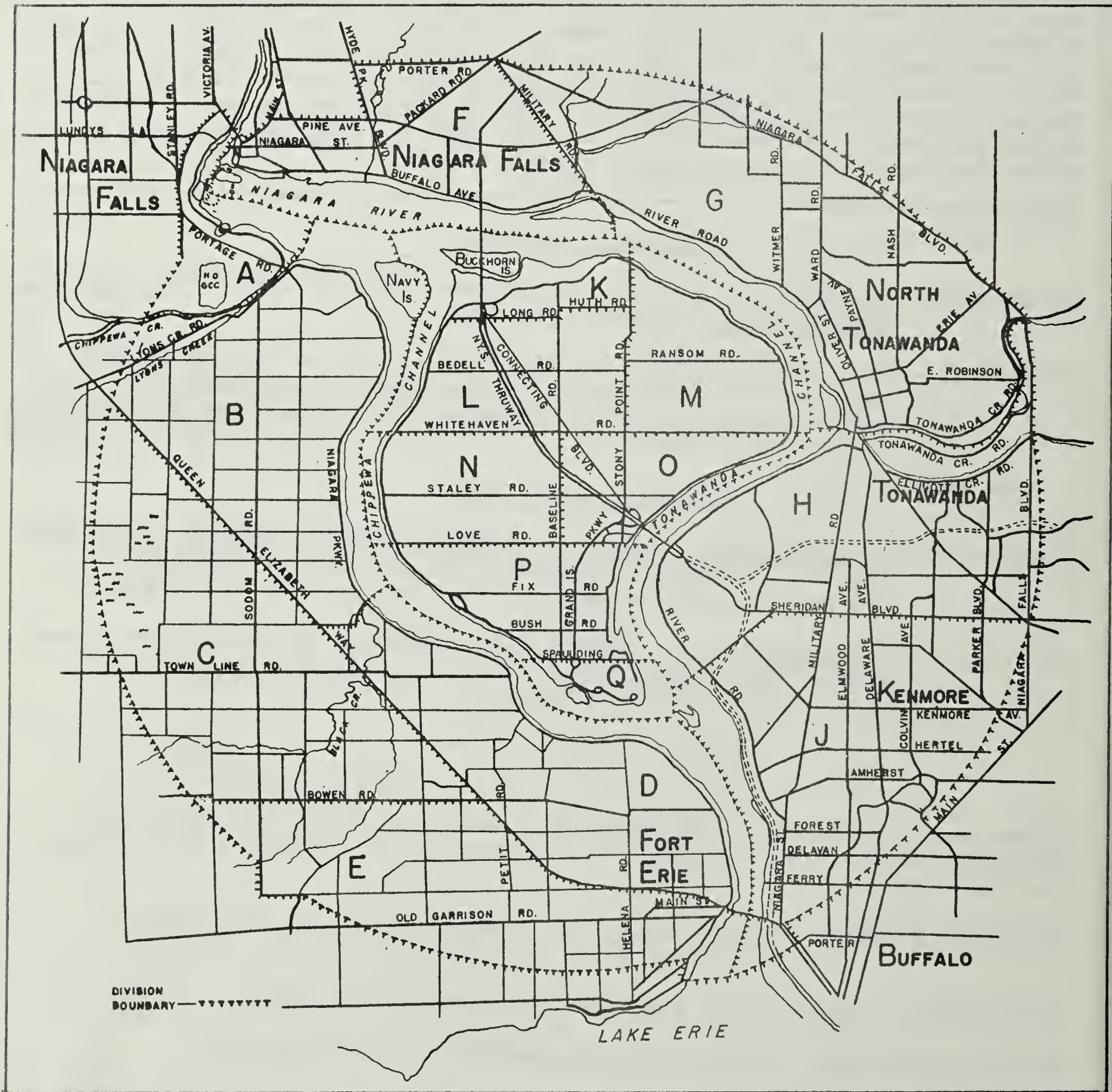
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# SECTIONAL DIVISIONS OF THE BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CENSUS TERRITORY





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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

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December 1966

Number 12

## THE MONTH

November temperature was 2.4 degrees above the long-range average and precipitation was 0.9 inches above normal as recorded at the Greater Buffalo International Airport.

Undoubtedly the most unusual meteorological-ornithological phenomenon of the month was the piling up of waterfowl at the east end of Lake Erie on the morning of the 4th, caused by the combination of a sudden widespread drop in temperature and the barrier presented by the north edge of a raging snowstorm. As viewed from the Canadian shore about two miles southwest of the Peace Bridge, the north edge of the storm between one and two miles to the south looked like a wall extending lengthwise down the middle of the lake. Overhead and to the north the sky was mostly clear. Apparently a sudden widespread freezing of waters had initiated a major migration of waterfowl. Flocks of swans and ducks were coming in, mostly from the north, continuing generally southward over the water until they neared or reached the well-defined border of the storm. At this barrier against further migration they demonstrated obvious frustration and confusion. Ducks were restlessly milling around almost everywhere between the Peace Bridge and the storm, but the swans were piling up on the water at the very edge of the falling snow. Frequently flocks of swans flew into the storm, but soon turned back and emerged again; others flew a mile or more along the snowy border, as if seeking an opening through the wall, but they ultimately gave up.

So many waterfowl were forced down by these weather conditions that record numbers of several species were counted in the area from the Peace Bridge upstream for a distance of about three or four miles - the area where Lake Erie narrows into the Niagara River. By mid-morning of November 4, the numbers of both Surf and Common Scoters were considerably greater than ever before recorded specifically in the present B.O.S. study area. The number of Oldsquaws was the largest ever recorded in the present B.O.S. area in the fall. The many Common Goldeneyes and Buffleheads may possibly have exceeded any totals previously observed in that particular



locality. Whistling Swans continued to increase so that on the 6th the largest number ever recorded in the Niagara Frontier Region in the fall was counted at Crescent Beach, Ontario, where they attracted a good deal of popular attention. During the next few days some of them apparently scattered to other localities at the east end of the lake. By the 13th most of these waterfowl had continued on their migration, the night of the 12th especially producing a major exodus.

Although there was a gradual reduction in transient species of land birds throughout the first two weeks of November, the day and night of the 12th produced about a strikingly sudden a departure of both diurnal and nocturnal migrants as I have ever observed. Particularly noticeable were the decrease in waterfowl, Robins, icterids, and fringillids. The 12th was the first day with subnormal temperature following several unseasonably warm days. It was also the first day since October without measurable precipitation. Possibly still more important for encouraging nocturnal migration was the fact that the night of the 12th-13th offered the first view of a starry sky during the month. The night was overcast at the beginning, but clear thereafter.

As usual in the Niagara Frontier, November was a productive birding month. The number of Gadwalls present was very exceptional, especially considering that the 22 listed (in the upper rapids) at Niagara Falls was only a partial count. A Bobwhite running around chasing Starlings on the lawn of Mather Park within a few hundred feet of the Canadian end of the Peace Bridge was an unexpected observation. A Long-billed Dowitcher at East Eden Pond was the latest B.O.S. date for this species and the second record inland away from Lake Erie or the Niagara River. It has been a good year for observing phalaropes. The Bohemian Waxwing in Tom Bourne's yard is of special interest because of its rarity. Over the years a total of 13 species of warblers have been recorded for November. This is the first November in which as many as four species have been listed, however. It may be of some interest that all four were seen (on different days) within an area 100 feet in diameter. During the first part of the month there were more Fox Sparrows at feeders than usual. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	Nov.	11,13	6,4	Cuba Lake	Burtens
	"	12	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Grzybowski et al
	"	12	5	Chautauqua Lake	Rew et al
	"	19	6	Over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	26	5	Cuba Lake	Burtens



## Common Loon (cont.)

	Nov.	26	4 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	(maximum counts for the month)			
Red-necked Grebe	"	13	1 Chippawa, Ont.	Ulrichs, Abrams
	"	26	2 Jordan Harbor, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
Horned Grebe	"	12	50 Chautauqua Lake	Grzybowski et al
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	"	20,28,30	1,2,2 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	26	2 South Park, Buffalo	Rybczynski et al
American Bittern	Nov.	6	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
Whistling Swan	"	4F	130 Crescent Beach, Ont.	Axtell
	"	5	7 Bay View	Andrle
	"	5	24 Wanakah	Bourne
	"	5	6 Lyndonville	Smith
	"	6	717 Crescent Beach, Ont.	Axtells, Lunardini
	"	10	126 Bay View	Andrle
	"	11	150 Hamburg Town Park	Danner, Schafer
	"	11	175 Crescent Bay, Ont.	Klabundes
	"	12	210 Chautauqua Lake	Rew et al
	"	12	Over Hamburg and Eden	Andrle
	(first and maximum counts; many other records for month)			
Brant	"	1	1 Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
	"	2	1 Hamburg Town Park	Kikta
Canada Goose	"	11	100 Hamburg Town Park	Danner, Schafer
	"	14	57 Buffalo	Rybczynski
Gadwall	"	4-27	3-6 Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtells et al
	"	12	6 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham
	"	12	14 Chautauqua Lake	Rew et al
	"	27	22 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells
Wood Duck	"	27	1 Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Axtells
Redhead	"	26	400 Chippawa, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
Ring-necked Duck	"	12	1 Lily Dale	Grzybowski et al
	"	20	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Emerson et al
	"	20,27	2,2 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells
Greater Scaup	"	1	1900 Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
	"	26	1400 Chippawa, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
Oldsquaw	"	4	650 Peace Bridge to Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
Surf Scoter	"	4	125 Peace Bridge to Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
Common Scoter	"	4	125 Peace Bridge to Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
Ruddy Duck	"	26	19 Cuba Lake	Burtens
Hooded Merganser	"	12	11 Chautauqua Lake	Rew et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	4	1 Belmont	Burtens
Cooper's Hawk	"	5,13	1,1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	24	1 Scio	Burtens
	"	26	1 Randolph	Ulrichs, Abrams
Red-sh. Hawk	"	10	1 Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	20	1 Iroquois N.W.R.	Klabundes
Bald Eagle	"	19	1 Bond Lake	Ulrichs et al
	(immature bird)			
Ruffed Grouse	"	20	2 Iroquois N.W.R.	Klabundes
Bobwhite	"	13	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham et al
Turkey	"	2	52 Wellsville	Burtens
American Coot	"	11	350 Cuba Lake	Burtens
	"	12	3100 Chautauqua Lake	Rew et al

American Coot (cont.)	Nov.	27	420	Mayville	Rew
Killdeer	"	26	22	Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Mitchell et al
Am. Golden Plover	"	11	5	Willow Bay, Ont.	Andrle et al
	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>26L</u>	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Grzybowski, Mitchell et al
Black-b. Plover	"	26	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Hess
	"	26	2	Point Abino, Ont.	Rew, Rathburn
Ruddy Turnstone	"	1L	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
Common Snipe	"	1,26	8,2	Port Colborne, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Greater Yellowlegs	"	27	1	Beaver Island State Pk.	Freitags
Lesser Yellowlegs	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>5L</u>	1	East Eden Pond	Andrle
*Purple Sandpiper	"	2F	1	Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	12	4	Rockhouse Point to Grant Point, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	"	17	3	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitags
	"	20	2	Waverly Beach, Ont.	Axtells et al
	"	23	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Pectoral Sandpiper	"	5L	1	Bay View	Andrle
White-r. Sandpiper	"	1	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
	"	5L	1	Erie Beach Ont.	Axtell, Salisbury et al
Dunlin	"	26	3	Rochhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	26	13	Port Colborne, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
<u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	"	1	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	5-12	1	East Eden Pond	Andrle
Semipalm. Sandpiper	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>12</u>	1	Long Beach, Ont.	Benham et al
Sanderling	"	11L	2	Willow Bay, Ont.	Hess et al
Red Phalarope	"	5,6	2,2	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell, Salisbury et al
	"	6	4	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne et al
	"	8,11	4,4	Athol Springs	Andrle
	"	11,12L	3,3	Hamburg Town Park	Danner, Bourne et al
*Parasitic Jaeger	"	8	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Glaucous Gull	"	20	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Emerson et al
	"	23	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	27	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells et al
Iceland Gull	"	23	1	Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski
Little Gull	"	20	2	Queenston, Ont.	Axtells et al
	"	27	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	27	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells
Common Tern	"	13L	1	Dunkirk	Rew
Black Tern	"	4L	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtell
Snowy Owl	"	5F	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Short-eared Owl	"	11	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	19	1	Lyndonville	Smith
Saw-whet Owl	"	20	1	Louth, Ont.	Benham et al
Red-bel. Wdpkr.	"	19	1	Lyndonville	Smith
	"	21	1	Batavia	Buckland
Red-h. Woodpecker	"	26	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
Horned Lark					
( <u>E.a. alpestris</u> )	"	15	15	Elma	Danner, Schafer
	"	16	9	Elma	Kikta
	"	29,30	2,2	Elma	Danner, Schafer



Common Crow	Nov.	20	2500 Orchard Park	Kikta
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-30	1 Athol Springs(f)	Csont
	"	1-30	1 Lewiston (f)	Klabundes
	"	4	2 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	9	1 St. Bonaventure	Grzybowski
	"	12	1 Dunkirk	Grzybowski
	"	20	1 St. Catharines, Ont.	Hess et al
	"	22,26	1,1 West Seneca	Kikta
	"	30	1 West Seneca	Rybczynski
Mockingbird	"	1-30	1 Athol Springs	Csont
	"	20	1 Queenston, Ont.	Hess et al
	"	23	1 Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	"	27	1 Beaver Island St.Pk.	Freitag
Water Pipit	"	11	70 Long Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
*Bohemian Waxwing	"	14,16,18	1,1,1 Hamburg	Bourne
Cedar Waxwing	"	7	100 Belmont	Burtions
Northern Shrike	"	1-30	1-3 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
	"	5,12	1,1 Grand Island	Klabundes
	"	23	1 Beaver Island St. Pk.	Lunardini
	"	27	1 Porter Center	Klabundes
	"	27	1 Lyndonville	Smith
Orange-cr. Warbler	<u>Nov.</u>	5	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
Myrtle Warbler	"	26	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
	"	27	1 Westfield	Rew
Bl.-th. Green Warbler	<u>Nov.</u>	2	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
Pine Warbler	<u>Nov.</u>	11	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
Red-w. Blackbird	"	1,23	400,100 Moulton, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	6	100 Belvidere	Burtions
Rusty Blackbird	"	1-13	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	12	26 Mayville	Rew et al
	"	29,30	1,1 Belmont	Burtions
Common Grackle	"	1	2000 Moulton, Ont.	Grzybowski, Hess
	"	30	4 Wellsville	Burtions
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1,23	150,50 Moulton, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	30	12 Belmont	Burtions
Evening Grosbeak	"	11F	14 Long Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
	"	13	3 Wilson Cemetery	Klabundes
	"	13	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	21	2 Belmont	Burtions
Pine Grosbeak	"	13	1 Wilson Cemetery	Kikta
	"	13	2 Wilson Cemetery	Klabundes
Pine Siskin	"	14,17	1,1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	16	2 Youngstown Cemetery	Klabundes
Red Crossbill	"	11	23 Long Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
	"	13	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Savannah Sparrow	<u>Nov.</u>	6	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtell
Vesper Sparrow	"	7,11L	1,1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
Chipping Sparrow	"	11L	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
Field Sparrow	"	7,13L	1,1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
White-cr. Sparrow	"	1-13L	2-3 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
White-th. Sparrow	"	1-12	6-20 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
	"	13-30	1-2 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
	"	20-27	1 Buffalo	Praemassings
Fox Sparrow	"	1-11	1-4 Lewiston (f)	Klabundes

Fox Sparrow(cont.)	Nov.	6	4 Clarksville	Grzybowski, Eaton
	"	1-10	20 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
	"	11-12L	6 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
Swamp Sparrow	"	6	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
	"	11	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Hess et al
	"	12	1 Mayville	Rew et al
Song Sparrow	"	26	3 South Park, Buffalo	Rybczynski
Lapland Longspur	"	1	1 Port Weller, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	15	2 Elma	Danner, Schafer
	"	16	2 Elma	Kikta
Snow Bunting	"	16	150 Elma	Kikta
	"	15	200 Batavia	Buckland
Species previously recorded this year			269	
Additions species recorded this issue			<u>3</u>	
Total for 1966			272	

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#### STATISTICIANS' NOTES

1. In view of the increasing rarity of the Pigeon Hawk and Peregrine Falcon and the frequency with which other birds are misidentified as these species, records of these two falcons will be considered acceptable only if accompanied by an adequately convincing verifying write-up. Accordingly, it is recommended that all owners of a B.O.S. Verification Date Guide 1965 delete the dates listed for these two species.

2. On the basis of examination of museum study specimens and information contained in a recent scientific publication (Smith, N.G., Evolution of some Arctic gulls (Larus): an experimental study of isolating mechanisms, Monograph No. 4., Amer. Ornith. Union 1966) some ornithologists believe that the two races of Iceland Gull, Larus glaucoides glaucoides and L.g. kumlieni, cannot reliably be distinguished in the field. Pending possible future resolution of this problem, B.O.S. records of Iceland Gulls will henceforth refer only to the species and will not make specific distinction.

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#### A LATE NESTING DATE

In The Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region the last date for young in the nest of a Barn Swallow is August 4, 1937, when Fred Haxelton noted a number of this species with young in their nests in LeRoy, New York. When I visited the home of Mrs. Cameron Baird at Eden in mid-August I found five young Barn Swallows in a nest under the porch roof on a shelf formed by the top of a pillar, and I asked Mrs. Baird to try to keep track of the day the young left the nest. She did so and advised me that the young left the nest on August 22, 1966, extending the nesting records by 18 days.

Harold D. Mitchell



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Chautauqua Lake Waterfowl Field Trip - November 12, 1966

Although the day was cold and damp, featuring overcast skies, a sharp wind and finally rain and hail, birding on the Chautauqua Lake Waterfowl Trip was good. At a stop along Lake Erie on our way south we saw a flock of 35 Whistling Swan flying far out over the lake and several species of ducks and gulls nearer shore. At Hamburg-on-the-Lake we found 3 Red Phalaropes, which had lingered there since the previous weekend, and were able to observe them from a distance of only a few yards without disturbing them.

Fourteen Gadwall and 11 Hooded Mergansers were feeding with a small flock of American Widgeon at the Beaujean Road Pond near Mayville, but the next two conservation ponds were unproductive, except for another Hooded Merganser and a Great Blue Heron.

We reached Chautauqua Lake at Mayville about noon and began counting Coot, an occupation which kept us busy at various stops the rest of the day, our final count being over 3000. There were also present on the lake about 210 Whistling Swan, 5 Common Loons, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, several large rafts of Canvasbacks, Greater Scaups, Buffleheads and Goldeneyes together with a few Redheads and one Oldsquaw. Two Common Terns flew over our heads as we crossed the lake on the ferry at Bemus Point. Since this was a waterfowl trip, little time was spent searching for land birds, but a walk through the milk pond area at Mayville turned up many of our permanent residents, as well as several species of sparrows including Field and Swamp and a flock of some 26 Rusty Blackbirds.

Frances M. Rew

Report of B.O.S. Trip on the Niagara Loop - November 20, 1966

Sunday, November 20 was a cold, clear day. Fifteen persons were hopeful that the Purple Sandpiper might be among the first of the birds to be seen on the B.O.S. Niagara Loop Trip. "Jaeger Rocks" and other nearby haunts did not produce the bird. However, the river off shore had thousands of ducks, including many Bufflehead and Oldsquaw. The 3 species of Scoters were observed, while some 300 Canvasback flew overhead.

Comparatively few ducks or gulls were seen on the river. Below Navy Island we again saw the 3 Scoters, Horned Grebe and other species. Farther down the water was black with Canvasback and Scaup. Frances Rew focused her scope on one Ring-necked Duck.

The Glaucous Gull, found by Jim Braunberns, was our bird of the day. This bird remained for sometime in the rapids. Everyone had an excellent opportunity to observe the bird and Mr. Mitchell put his Kodak to use.

Some forty-one species were seen during the day.

We met the Axtells at the Falls, only to learn that they had seen two Purple Sandpipers at Waverly Beach in the morning. From Queenston we returned by way of Waverly Beach. The two Sandpipers were too elusive. The only shore birds seen were 11 Killdeer and one dead Black-bellied

Plover.

Mary Louise Emerson

Report of the October Bird CountDate: October 9, 1966

Weather Conditions: The day was pleasant, sunny and warm, with high winds, gusty at times. The temperature ranged from 50° F. in the early morning to 70° F. in the afternoon.

Species Recorded: Figures in parentheses indicate division numbers where the species was observed when reported in three or fewer divisions.

Common Loon	2	(6,8)	Ruffed Grouse	46	
Horned Grebe	29		Ring-n. Pheasant	116	
Pied-billed Grebe	42		Turkey	26	(28)
Green Blue Heron	41		Va. Rail	23	
Green Heron	11		Common Gallinule	6	(26)
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	2	(5)	American Coot	555	
American Bittern	2	(19,26)	Semipalm. Plover	12	
Canada Goose	688		Killdeer	759	
Mallard	1323		Golden Plover	18	
Black Duck	690		Black-bellied Plover	64	
Gadwall	3	(5,8)	Ruddy Turnstone	4	(6,8)
Pintail	54		American Woodcock	25	
Green-winged Teal	76		Common Snipe	23	
Blue-winged Teal	148		Solitary Sandpiper	2	(6,15)
American Widgeon	1058		Greater Yellowlegs	43	
Shoveler	4	(8,23)	Lesser Yellowlegs	19	
Wood Duck	387		Knot	1	(7)
Redhead	2	(5)	Pectoral Sandpiper	22	
Ring-necked Duck	9		W.-rumped Sandpiper	3	(8)
Canvasback	6	(5,19)	Least Sandpiper	11	(6)
Greater Scaup	5	(8,14)	Dunlin	130	
Lesser Scaup	8		Semipalm. Sandpiper	10	(6,7,8)
Bufflehead	1	(9)	Sanderling	149	
White-w. Scoter	2	(8)	Parasitic Jaeger	1	(8)
Surf Scoter	12	(8,9,20)	Gr.Black-b. Gull	53	
Common Scoter	2	(8)	Herring Gull	2176	
Ruddy Duck	21		Ring-b. Gull	6882	
Hooded Merganser	1	(22)	Franklin's Gull	1	(8)
Common Merganser	2	(8)	Bonaparte's Gull	2103	
Turkey Vulture	21		Little Gull	2	(8)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5		Common Tern	2796	
Cooper's Hawk	3	(21,23)	Black Tern	3	(8,1)
Red-tailed Hawk	74		Black-headed Gull	1	(8)
Red-shouldered Hawk	8		Rock Dove	272	
Broad-winged Hawk	1	(25)	Mourning Dove	207	
Bald Eagle (immature)	1	(14)	Black-b. Cuckoo	1	(19)
Marsh Hawk	35		Screech Owl	5	
Osprey	1	(25)	Gr. Horned Owl	3	(8,9,19)
Sparrow Hawk	33		Barred Owl	1	(22)



Vol. 32, No. 12 - October Bird Count (cont.)

Common Nighthawk	2	(8,21)	Solitary Vireo	3	(8)
Chimney Swift	83	(5,8)	Red-eyed Vireo	6	
Kingfisher	73		Philadelphia Vireo	1	(14)
Yellow-shafted Flicker	241		Black-w. Warbler	5	(7,12,28)
Pileated Woodpecker	6		Tennessee Warbler	2	(8,22)
Red-headed Woodpecker	7		Orange-cr. Warbler	4	(8,9,25)
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	14		Nashville Warbler	19	
Hairy Woodpecker	39		Magnolia Warbler	2	(13)
Downy Woodpecker	186		Cape May Warbler	2	(9,25)
Great Cr. Flycatcher	1	(11)	Bl.-th. Blue Warbler	3	(7,8,9)
Eastern Phoebe	73		Myrtle Warbler	607	
E. Wood Pewee	4	(22,28)	Bl.-th. Green Warbler	12	
Horned Lark	79		Blackburnian Warbler	2	(11,12)
( <u>E.a. alpestris</u> )	17		Bay-br. Warbler	3	(6,8,25)
( <u>E.a. praticola</u> )	84		Blackpoll Warbler	11	
Tree Swallow	10		Palm Warbler	23	
Rough-w. Swallow	1	(8)	Yellowthroat	25	
Purple Martin	23	(8)	Canada Warbler	1	(26)
Blue Jay	887		American Redstart	3	(11,25,26)
Common Crow	2214		House Sparrow	2851	
Black-c. Chickadee	994		E. Meadowlark	668	
Tufted Titmouse	2	(21)	Red-w. Blackbird	19081	
White-br. Nuthatch	227		Rusty Blackbird	577	
Red-br. Nuthatch	10		Common Grackle	2136	
Brown Creeper	51		Brown-h. Cowbird	3657	
House Wren	10		Cardinal	103	
Winter Wren	25		Rose-br. Grosbeak	8	
Long-b. Marsh Wren	6		Purple Finch	22	
Mockingbird	3	(5,15)	Amer. Goldfinch	2293	
Catbird	86		Rufous-s. Towhee	71	
Brown Trasher	9		Savannah Sparrow	77	
Robin	5217		Vesper Sparrow	181	
Wood Thrush	1	(19)	Slate-col. Junco	610	
Hermit Thrush	30		Tree Sparrow	23	
Swainson's Thrush	10		Chipping Sparrow	508	
Gray-ch. Thrush	4	(8,12,28)	Field Sparrow	273	
Eastern Bluebird	142		White-cr. Sparrow	393	
Golden-cr. Kinglet	254		White-th. Sparrow	1455	
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	196		Fox Sparrow	4	(10,25)
Water Pipit	79		Lincoln's Sparrow	7	(19,23,28)
Cedar Waxwing	876		Swamp Sparrow	143	
Loggerhead Shrike	1	(9)	Song Sparrow	1538	
Starling	34994				

Miscellaneous: A total of 161 species and one extra subspecies and 102,968 individuals were reported. The Great Crested Flycatcher and Black-headed Gull were reported for the first time on a fall census. Unidentified swallows, 3 plus; unidentified sparrows, 223; unidentified warblers, 7 plus; unidentified hawks, 6; unidentified ducks, 14; unidentified blackbirds, 500; the 300 Robins in territory 8 were only a fraction of a roost  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away from Rose Hill Road, Ontario.

Comparisons: Of the 21 species of ducks recorded, a few exceeded in numbers the records of the past 7 years: Mallards, 1322; Black Ducks, 690; Green-winged Teal, 133; Ruddy Ducks, 21, doubling the records in any of the

previous 6 years; Bufflehead, 1, the first seen in 5 years. Other ducks were down in numbers. The American Widgeon count (1058) was 500 lower than last year, but both years surpassed in large numbers any of the previous 5 years' records.

Scaup were very low (Lesser Scaup 8, Greater Scaup 5), especially compared with the years prior to 1963, when they were up in the thousands. The mergansers made a poor showing with Hooded, 1, Common, 2, and no Red-breasted. This is only the second time the last was not recorded since 1935.

Nineteen species of warblers were recorded. Three were above average for the last 7 years: Blackpoll, 11; Palm, 23; and Yellowthroat, 25.

Sparrows in most cases were holding their own. The Savannah Sparrow was high at 77, White Tree, White-crowned, White-throated and Song Sparrows were down in numbers. Juncos took a big drop, only 610 when there are usually more than a thousand.

One hundred and sixty-two people participated in the count, covering 26 out of the 28 territories.

Eugenia Praemassing

Sectional Divisions and Observers: The following divisions are those defined by the map "Sectional Divisions of Territory of the Buffalo Ornithological Society" (1956). The list gives the number of each division and the name of a place located in that division. Underlined names denote the individuals or groups responsible for the coverage of each division.

1. Fonthill, Ont. - Fred and Dan Salisbury.
2. Thorold, Ont. - Fred and Dan Salisbury.
3. Wilson, N. Y. - Flossie Lortz.
4. Middleport, N.Y. - Walter and Harriett Klabunde.
5. Oak Orchard, N.Y. - Harold D. Mitchell, Paul Hess, Ken Siminski, Gregory Hammond.
6. Port Maitland, Ont. - Ed Williams.
7. Lowbanks, Ont. - James Braunberns, Mary Louise and Marjorie Emerson.
8. Fort Erie, Ont. - Frances M. Rew, Robert Rubczynski, Harold and Rachel Axtell, Mr. and Mrs. George Letchworth.
9. Grand Island, N.Y. - Paul Benham, Mr. and Mrs. C. Joudry.
10. Akron, N.Y. - The Ulrichs (6)
11. Buffalo, N.Y. - Arthur Freitag, Richard Freitag, Paul Nevergold, Frances Rathburn, Mariam Eaton.
12. Lancaster, N.Y. - Marie and Margaret Wendling, Gertrude Webster, Katrina Schwenger, Nellie Karlak, Ima Bill, Cy Wolfling, Mrs. Harry Schafer, Mrs. Fred Danner, Carl Forsberg.
13. Batavia, N.Y. - Mrs. O. L. Pixley, Max and James Mason, Russell and Norma Annabal, George Mahoney, George Buckland, David Thompson, Don Thurau, Dr. R. M. Pixley, Barbara and Harold Dodge.
14. Hamburg, N.Y. - Thomas Bourne, Robert Andrle, Anna Mae Bacon, John E. Bacon, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Liston, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Loomis, Eric Loomis, Mrs. I. Dilivio,



- Wilma Csont, Mr. C. P. Mauser.
15. Java, N. Y. - East Aurora Bird Group: Mrs. Lewis Sisler, Sheldon Merritt, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lange, Thelma Pickett, Dorothy Roth, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Neischel, Mr. and Mrs. L. Crone, Mr. and Mrs. N. Calkins, Mrs. Buddington.
16. Angola, N.Y. - John K. McCormick, Edwin Mabette, Charles H. McCormick.
17. Cattaraugus, N. Y. - David and Dee Biglow.
18. Delevan, N. Y. - Harold Freund, James Anderson.
19. Fillmore, N. Y. - Allegany County Bird Club: Katherine Palmer, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Mary Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hooper, Margaret Hodnet, Mrs. Midge Smith, Mrs. Josephine Main, Marjorie Main, Helen Hubbard, Roberta Fair, Mr. and Mrs. Harland Hale, Mr. and Mrs. James Moore, Ralph Kleinspehn.
20. Silver Creek, N.Y. - Richard Miga, Donald McFarland.
21. Cherry Creek, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Clarence Beal, Carl Belknap, Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Burgeson, Ruth Ahrens, Annabella Hiller, Calla and Jennie Freeman, Laura Waterman.
22. Sherman, N. Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Mr. and Mrs. James Potter, Ruth Skinner, Mrs. Victor Gastol, Lois Buck, Nina Bates, Ora Swanson, Elizabeth Pillsbury.
23. Frewsburg, N. Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Robert Sundell, Archie Richardson, Clarence Beal, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Findley, Carl Belknap, Ruth Ahrens, Elizabeth Pillsbury.
24. Allegany Park, N.Y. - Not taken
25. Allegany, N. Y. - Cattaraugus County Bird Study Group: Neil Saylor, Fred Meyers, Jerry Haines, Dorothy Baker, John and Mary Forness, Roger Forness, Harriett Lange, Joseph Grzybowski, Andrew Klemmer.
26. Cuba, N. Y. - Allegany County Bird Club: Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keople, Mrs. Frank Risch, Mrs. Guy Ingalls and family, Mrs. Aren Smith, Mr. and Mrs. James Mullane.
27. Bolivar, N. Y. - No report.
28. Alfred, N. Y. - Allegany County Bird Club: Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead, Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Foster, Mrs. Robert G. Eisenhardt, Mr. Deverell, Clarence Klingersmith, Mrs. Walter Schogoleff, Helen Thomas, Eva Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton, Ralph Jacobs, Mary Alice Fuller, Mrs. Raymond Woodworth, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Coats, Mrs. Douglas Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Walker Rayburn, Mrs. Neil Bernard, Ted Vossler, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pitzrick, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Burdick, Mr. and Mrs. Ted McClure, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gerace

INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES IN GREAT BRITAIN, JULY 1966

ROBERT C. STEIN

Great Britain was the focal point for the world of ornithology in July 1966. The International Committee for Bird Protection met at Cambridge during the week of July 10. The Scottish Ornithologists Club's bird-islands cruise, July 16-22, provided a relaxing and informative opportunity for ornithologists to study multitudes of sea birds. The International Ornithological Congress at Oxford from July 24 to 30 was the final event. Of these, I can only report on the last two.

The Congress staff had decided that no field trips would be integrated into its program, because of the demands of time and logistics. The S.O.C. therefore organized the "Devonia" trip separately, but adjunct to, the Congress. This "field trip" portion of the summer's activities was well executed by the S.O.C. staff. The chance to see or visit sea bird colonies and the island perimeter of Scotland should not have been missed. The chance to see so many birds on a cruise for as little as 30 pounds (\$94) cannot be expected again very soon. About half of the participants were from Great Britain, and many of them were conscious of the bargain and opportunity.

The cruise started from Greenock (near Glasgow) about 1:00p.m. on July 16. The weather was clear and warm---surprisingly it stayed that way during the trip, except at St. Kilda and Muckle Flugga. Ailsa Craig, near the mouth of the Firth of Clyde, and the first bird colony visited, was covered on the west side by thousands of Gannets. The ship then headed west and north around the Mull of Kintyre to the Island of Rhum.

Rhum is now a reserve of The Nature Conservancy. The ship disembarked passengers for the day, and they were then free to explore the island. One group climbed to the top to see the Manx Shearwater burrows (many large rafts of birds were also off shore). Others explored the heath and grass moors, or other seabird colonies. Birds of particular interest included European Golden Plovers, Dippers, Ring Ouzels, Peregrines and Golden Eagles. The island is treeless except for a plantation in the protected bay facing the island of Skye, and so few woodland birds were present.

Overnight the ship sailed to St. Kilda. This remote island group lies 100 miles west of mainland Scotland and is owned by the National Trust for Scotland, which leases it to the Nature Conservancy. Stac on Armin in this island group, was the last outpost of the Great Auk in Britain. Hirta, the largest island of the group, has a colony of 20,000 breeding Fulmars with many on other islands. The St. Kilda colonies of Gannets, mainly on Boreray and the stacks, includes about 45,000 pairs (37% of the world's total). Other species observed as we circumnavigated the islands in fog were Puffins, and Storm Petrels (only a few), Guillemots (Murre) and Black Guillemots, Razorbills and Kittiwakes. The ship passed by the Flannan Isles, Sula Sgeir and North Rona, to Foula.

Foula in Shetland is possibly Britain's most inaccessible inhabited island. It is known for the large colony (900 pairs) of Great Skuas. There are also about 130 pairs of Arctic Skuas (Parasitic Jaegers). As the ship passed this island, the normal ship followers (Herring, Greater and Lesser



Black-backed Gulls) were temporarily replaced by Great and Arctic Skuas and Fulmars - a most rewarding sight.

The second siege of foggy and cold weather limited the sight of Muckle Flugga, the northernmost tip of Scotland. Nevertheless, the colonies of Gannets, Shags, Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Razorbills and Guillemots, were seen on the cliffs of the Hermaness National Nature Reserve, just to the south.

The second chance to land and visit a seabird colony was at Noss National Nature Reserve near Lerwick, the main city of Shetland. The colony of Great Skuas breeding on the upper moors is large. Its members pursue Gannets and Kittiwakes. Guillemots (Murre) were abundant. This visit provided a heyday for bird photographers.

Those who chose to visit the mainland were landed at Lerwick. During the day they visited the "city", with its ships and museum, discovered long Norse history, explored the nearby open country, or took a bus trip to the Neolithic to Viking ruins at Jarlshof and observed sheep shearing and peat cutting en route.

Unfortunately we were only able to circumnavigate Fair Isle, with its famous bird observatory.

The day in Orkney was spent seeing the Stone Age settlement at Skara Brae, the Ring of Brogar and the sea-bird cliffs at Marwick Head. This provided a last chance for photographing the Kittiwakes, Razorbills, Fulmars, Puffins and Guillemots (plain and bridled forms) both sitting on the cliffs and flying within 20 feet on the updrafts at the top of the cliffs. From the bus several species of raptors and other land birds were also observed in the fields.

During the course of the trip the participants had available regular lectures and motion pictures about the geology, natural history, customs and character of Scotland and its islands. The whole program was well integrated and was selected to reinforce the over-all objectives of the cruise.

The trip finished with the "Devonia" sailing up the Firth of Forth to Leith, the harbor of Edinburgh. Saturday, July 23, was used by cruise members for sightseeing and a reception in Edinburgh. That night a special train brought congress members to Oxford.

The XIV International Ornithological Congress had as its president Dr. David Lack of the Edward Grey Institute at Oxford, and Dr. Niko Tinbergen of Oxford served as secretary-general. Headquarters was at Rhodes House, with the paper sessions being held in lecture rooms in the science area and in the University Museum. Congress members were housed in several colleges, the members of the permanent committee residing at Trinity College. This broke the membership of the Congress into smaller rooms for meals and lodging.

The official opening of the Congress was held the evening of Sunday, July 24 in the Sheldonian Theatre, a building designed by Sir Christopher Wren. A welcome was extended to overseas delegates by several members of the permanent executive committee, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Oxford



University, and the chairman of the Department of Zoology. Dr. Lack presided.

The morning plenary paper sessions were devoted to current topics of research and interest. These papers, by invited lecturers, will be published in the Congress proceedings in 1967.

Monday's session centered on the topics of population dynamics and ecology. Lack, in discussing the inter-relationships in breeding adaptations of marine birds, pointed out that birds with nests readily accessible to predators and widely dispersed tend to have cryptically colored eggs, nidifugous young, and larger clutches and are generally inter-tidal feeders. Those nesting in colonies in inaccessible sites have cryptic eggs and nidicolous young and are usually off-shore feeders. The intermediate situation, where colonies are less inaccessible, occurs when the adults combine to counteract predation, and is associated with in-shore feeders. Here the eggs are cryptically colored also. This was followed by several specific examples by individual authorities. Serventy specifically discussed the ecology of the Short-tailed Shearwater of the Australian region. Land birds were discussed in a similar vein by von Haartman (Pied Flycatcher) and Zink (White Stork).

Tuesday's plenary session was devoted to circadian rhythms and reproductive cycles in birds. Aschoff pointed out that the circadian oscillator is synchronized to a 24-hour cycle by periodic environmental factors called Zeitgebers. Light intensity changes are Zeitgebers for most organisms. "Social" Zeitgebers, such as the song of their own species, when played in period, seem to be less powerful than abiotic ones. Farner described the controls of reproduction as including, pragmatically, primary and supplementary timing, and modifying and terminal mechanisms. Most information has been gained from species whose primary mechanism is day length. The neuroendocrine basis is poorly understood. Hinde pointed out the effects of seasonal change, social behavior and hormonal basis for regulating reproductive cycles. Tinbergen pointed out the adaptive significance of seemingly trivial characters of species, and the multiplicity of selective several factors in bringing about species characteristics.

Wednesday was reserved for excursions, a break from the Congress routine. The main excursion was to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. Here Peter Scott, acting as host, explained the Trust and its research activities and gave guided tours of its collection of waterfowl and related birds, the world's most complete.

The topics of Thursday's plenary session were navigation and homing. This session, including papers by Perdeck, Penney, Walraff, Bellrose and Walcott, was concerned with experiments on pigeons and other species, both in the laboratory and with geographical displacement. The role of the sun and visible landmarks were reviewed, but no completely satisfactory hypotheses for avian navigation were presented.

The main topics of the Friday morning session were systematics and evolution. Stresemann discussed molt, Sibley, protein, and Bock, adaptive characters. Stresemann discussed the forms of wing molt and the influence of the loss of flight. The distinctive molts of several groups was used as monophylety. Sibley reviewed his work on electrophoresis of egg white



proteins and suggested some evidence for relationship among problem groups (e.g. Flamingoes are more closely related to Ciconiiformes than Anseriformes), and made suggestions for future work (e.g. revision of the superfamilies of Tyranni). Bock pointed out that all features used in avian classification are adaptive, and are maintained by natural selection. The role of selection and the many observable aspects of any character were stressed. Difference between ancestral and derived forms were considered adaptive; those among members of different phyletic lines, paradaptive -- illustrating the multiple pathways of evolution. He emphasized that the study of form and function and the adaptive significance of anatomical details was a sound basis for classification.

The last plenary session, on Saturday, July 30, was concerned with bird vocalizations. Marler compared the development of song in the genera Junco, Melospiza and Zonotrichia, all of which are closely related. The patterns of learning in sound-isolated birds varied from total "normality" (in the Song Sparrow) to changes in simplicity of syllables or song (in species of Junco). The survival value of these differences was not explained. Thorpe pointed out that song patterns of birds are stereotyped for species recognition, but had to be capable of variation for individual recognition. The Chaffinch apparently uses mimicry as a form of individuality, superimposed upon a genetically coded basic song pattern. In some African shrikes, where the territorial function of song is reduced, the social aspects of song and mimicry are apparently important in establishing and strengthening the pair bond. Bremond discussed the releaser aspects in the songs of birds. Nottebohm described how Chaffinches, deafened after a year of full song experience, produced normal songs, while those deafened before they engaged in sub-song produced simplified, abnormal full songs. This, he suggests, shows that the auditory feedback is necessary for the Chaffinch to develop its normal song.

Six sectional sessions were held on each afternoon (July 25, 26, 28, and 29) simultaneously. The papers presented, which will not be published with the proceedings of the Congress, covered a wide range of individual research projects, and were not usually synthetic in emphasis. The same four evenings were taken up with films. The most specific local scientific excursion was made in the evening of each of these four days to the University Museum Tower to see the swifts which had been so fully studied by Dr. Lack.

It was announced that the next Congress will be held late in the summer of 1970 in Holland, and that Dr. Niko Tinbergen would be the president.

Dr. Ernst Mayr of Harvard University was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree at the summer degree convocation.

The Congress adjourned after a garden party at Trinity College on Saturday afternoon, July 30.

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NOTE

Pursuant to a policy decision of the B.O.S. Council in 1966, all Errata and Addenda to Volume 32 of The Prothonotary will be published with the next issue.

PROGRAMS - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Humboldt Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 p.m. from September to June inclusive.

- January 25 - "Clark's Nutcracker", an annual bird quiz devised by Arthur Clark. Report on January Waterfowl Count by Harold Mitchell.
- February 8 - Films and slides of Hawks and Owls taken by Dr. Fred Hall, Director of the Buffalo Museum of Science.
- February 22 - Birding Experiences in the Hamburg, N.Y., area, Thomas L. Bourne.

PROGRAMS - FIELD TRIPS

- January 29 - Niagara River. Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 8:00 A.M. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ulrich (833-8896).
- February 12 - Trip to new Long Beach Woods Sanctuary in Ontario. Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 8:00 A.M. Leader, Dr. Robert Andrie (TX6-5200).
- February 26 - Niagara Plain. Meet at Tops Market parking lot, Center Street, Lewiston, N.Y. at 8:30 A.M. Leaders, Dr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde (754-4424).

NOTE

A complete Index for Volume 32 which will constitute the last page of this volume will accompany the January 1966 issue of the Prothonotary.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Ave., Kenmore, New York 14217.

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301



Bird records from the Noteworthy Records Section and the B.O.S. Bird Counts requiring written verification reports according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) are included in this index.

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Bittern American, 154                        | Phalarope, Wilson's, 74, 93, 104      |
| Bobwhite, 154                                | Plover, Am. Golden, 155               |
| Bunting, Indigo, 139                         | Plover, Piping, 5, 88                 |
| Bufflehead, 87, 92                           | Redhead, 92, 103                      |
| Canvasback, 136                              | Ruff, 104                             |
| Chat, Yellow-breasted, 122                   | Sandpiper, Least, 88                  |
| Chickadee, Boreal, 15, 45                    | Sandpiper, Pectoral, 92               |
| Chukar, 2, 59                                | Sandpiper, Semipalmated, 59, 93, 155  |
| Crossbill, Red, 105, 122                     | Sandpiper, Solitary, 92               |
| Dickcissel, 139                              | Scoter, Common, 5                     |
| Dowitcher, Long-billed, 137, 155             | Scoter, Surf, 5                       |
| Dowitcher, Short-billed, 74, 88, 92          | Shoveler, 2, 5, 43                    |
| Dunlin, 15                                   | Snipe, Common, 5, 15                  |
| Duck, Ruddy, 43                              | Sparrow, Grasshopper, 139             |
| Eider, Common, 58                            | Sparrow, Savannah, 156                |
| Gadwall, 102                                 | Sparrow, Tree, 81                     |
| Godwit, Hudsonian, 137                       | Swan, Mute, 92                        |
| Goshawk, 44, 119                             | Swallow, Cliff, 138                   |
| Grebe, Eared, 42                             | Swift, Chimney, 138                   |
| Grosbeak, Pine, 156                          | Tanager, Scarlet, 139                 |
| Gull, Black-headed, 3, 15, 93, 120, 137      | Tern, Black, 60                       |
| Gull, Laughing, 5                            | Tern, Common, 3, 5, 15                |
| Gull, Little, 93, 104                        | Tern, Forster's, 104                  |
| Gull, Sabine's, 120, 138                     | Thrasher, Sage, 138                   |
| Hawk, Broad-winged, 44                       | Thrush, Wood, 138                     |
| Hawk, Pigeon, 59, 119                        | Turnstone, Ruddy, 88                  |
| Hawk, Red-shouldered, 5                      | Warbler, Bay-breasted, 139            |
| Junco, Oregon, 17                            | Warbler, Bl.-thr. Blue, 139           |
| Kingbird, Eastern, 60                        | Warbler, Bl.-thr. Green, 139, 156     |
| Kinglet, Golden-crowned, 88, 94              | Warbler, Connecticut, 88, 105, 122    |
| Kinglet, Ruby-crowned, 16                    | Warbler, Kentucky, 77                 |
| Lark, Horned                                 | Warbler, Lawrence's, 76               |
| <u>E.a. alpestris</u> , 30, 45, 60, 138, 155 | Warbler, Magnolia, 139                |
| <u>E.a. praticola</u> , 3, 15, 30            | Warbler, Myrtle, 88                   |
| Loon, Red-throated, 2, 28, 73                | Warbler, Orange-cr., 156              |
| Martin, Purple, 45, 138                      | Warbler, Pine, 76, 156                |
| Meadowlark, Western, 88, 94                  | Warbler, Tennessee, 105, 139          |
| Oldsquaw, 119                                | Warbler, Worm-eating, 122             |
| Oriole, Baltimore, 122                       | Waxwing, Bohemian, 156                |
| Oriole, Orchard, 105                         | Whimbrel, 74                          |
| Osprey, 88, 137                              | Willet, 74                            |
| Pewee, Eastern Wood, 5, 138                  | Woodpecker, R.-bellied, 5, 30, 60, 75 |
| Phalarope, Northern, 104                     | Yellowlegs, Greater, 2, 92            |
| Phalarope, Red, 2, 120, 137                  | Yellowlegs, Lesser, 155               |

INDEX TO VOLUME 32 (CONT.)

- Bird Counts - April, 66  
    Christmas, 8 (In B.O.S. Territory, 6)  
    January Waterfowl, 19  
    May, 79  
    October, 159  
    Shorebird, 95 (1947 to 1966, 107)  
Birding on Grand Island and Buckhorn Island in the Early Days, 96  
B.O.S. Officers, Council and Committees, 1966 to 1967), 148  
Breakfast at Timber Trails, 55  
Breeding Bird Survey of Long Beach Woods, 89  
Cattaraugus Group Announces Project, 70  
Christmas Bird Counts in B.O.S. Territory, 1965-1966, 6  
Christmas Census Map, 151  
Education in Ornithology - Regional Survey, 22  
Exchange Bulletins, 53  
Fall Birding on the Sea Coast, 146  
Field Trip Reports (chronological order)  
    Hamlin Beach State Park, February 13, 32  
    Feeding Stations, February 27, 48  
    Niagara Loop, March 12, 48  
    Oak Orchard, March 27, 49  
    Allegany County, May 6, 65  
    Canadian Shore, May 22, 66  
    Canadian Shore, August 21, 94  
    Hawk Cliff, Ont., September 17, 123  
    Pymatuning, Pa., September 24, 141  
    Canadian Shore, September 25, 124  
    Hawk Mountain, Pa., October 29, 142  
    Chautauqua Lake, November 12, 158  
    Niagara Loop, November 20, 158  
General Notes  
    Barn Swallow, Late nesting, 157  
    Broadwing Hawk Nest, 140  
    Hawking Starlings, 5  
    Tufted Titmouse, Color Variation, 18  
Hawk Migration - 1966, 39, 63  
Identification of Winter Finches and Grosbeaks in Flight, 143  
Interior Department Unveils New Volume on Birds, 124  
International Ornithological Congress - 1966, 163  
Kirtland's Warbler, 50  
Message from the Research Committee, 11  
Month, 1, 13, 28, 41, 57, 72, 87, 91, 102, 118, 134, 152  
Nest Record Card Program, 54  
Nest Records Requested, 78  
Nesting Season at Wildlife Refuge - 1966, 125  
New Books at Museum, 36  
New Members, 26  
New Prothonotary Masthead, 11  
Note, Request for Old Nesting Records, 132  
Notes and News, 85, 116  
Noteworthy Records, 1, 13, 28, 42, 57, 73, 87, 91, 102, 119, 135, 153  
    Addenda to, 5, 166  
    Errata to, 5, 39, 166



Notices,

- Back issues of the Prothonotary, 70
- Saturday Morning Walks, 71, 85
- Thill's Appointment as Compiler, 98
- Observations on the Southward Migration of Thrushes at Rose Hill Road,  
Ontario, in 1966, 130
- Point Pelee, 20
- Programs, 12, 27, 40, 56, 71, 86, 90, 101, 117, 133, 150, 167
- Proposed Major Changes in B.O.S. Constitution, 26
- Pymatuning Reservoir, 99
- Raptor Trapping in the Niagara Peninsula, 33
- Research Committee Asks Aid on Project, 106
- Statisticians' Notes,
  - Explanation of rejected verifications, 78
  - Iceland Gull, 157
  - Pigeon Hawk and Peregrine Falcon, 157
- Twenty Years of Shorebird Counts, 107
- Wildlife Refuge Committee Report, Part II, 37

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134, 143, 152
- Paul Benham, 66
- David M. Bigelow, 22, 55
- Thomas L. Bourne, 48
- Lou L. Burton, 65
- Mary Louise Emerson, 49, 158
- Franklin H. Folemsbee, 33
- Joseph Grzybowski, 6, 39, 63
- R. H. Hesselbart, 18
- Walter Klabunde, 37, 123, and Harriette, 125
- Harold D. Mitchell, 49, 96, 141
- Eugenia Praemassing, 159
- Frances Rew, 140, 158
- Edward L. Seeber, 95, 107
- Robert C. Stein, 163
- Joseph F. Thill, 66
- Edward C. Ulrich, 5, 20, 32, 50, 99, 146
- Gertrude Webster, 94
- Marie Wendling, 54, 79











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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 33

January 1967

Number 1

## THE MONTH

The temperature in December was 1.9 inches above the mean. The first five days were very cold, averaging 15 degrees below normal; the second five were unseasonably warm, 19 degrees above normal. The remainder of the month was more typical. Precipitation was three-fourths of an inch below the long-range average. Most of the time the ground was bare or nearly so, except the last nine days, when there was usually a blanket of snow two to three inches in depth. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

Two unusually outstanding "firsts" occurred in our area this December. The first Brewer's Blackbird specimen for New York State was collected in Hamburg. For at least two decades this western species has been extending its breeding range eastward and has reached as far as about thirty miles southeast of Sudbury, Ontario. This is somewhat over 200 miles straight north from Long Point, which is about eighty miles west of Buffalo. There have been a number of previous sight records from New York, including one in the Jamestown 1953 Christmas Count.

The Lark Bunting at the Burtons' feeding station in Belmont throughout the month created even more of a sensation. The A.O.U. Check-list, 1957, mentions two New York State records, both from Long Island, and only a few others from eastern North America. The bird at the Burtons' is the first to be reported in the B.O.S. study area, and has been seen by many birders. The verifying write-ups received from Burton, Eaton and Rosche are fine examples of excellence in modern written verification of sight records.

Readers should look at the addenda in this issue for several important records previously unpublished. It should be particularly noted that Bob Curry of Hamilton, Ontario, observed and identified a Curlew Sandpiper at Morgan's Point on August 21, 1965, before it was otherwise reported or collected in our area. At our request he has sent us a copy of the detailed



notes that he wrote at the time for his own records, including a very thorough and systematic analysis of how the field characters he observed led to his identification of the bird as a Curlew Sandpiper. (It will be remembered that it was he who likewise first found and identified the Wandering Tattler at Windmill Point in July, 1960.)

Additional comments about December birds are contained in the report of the B.O.S. Christmas Count, appearing on page 14 of this issue. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	Dec.	10	1 Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Mitchell et al
Horned Grebe	"	3	5 Cuba Lake	Burtons
	"	10	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	17,21	1,1 Buffalo Harbor	Kikta, Rybczynski
	"	28	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Kikta, Rybczynski
Pied-billed Grebe	"	1-31	1 Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Axtells et al
	"	3	2 Cuba Lake	Burtons
	"	6	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
	"	7	1 Belmont	Burtons
	"	8	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
Great Blue Heron	"	8	1 Buckhorn Is. St. Pk.	Benham
	"	15	2 Scio	Rosches
	"	16	1 Belmont	Burtons
	"	17	1 Scio	Burtons
	"	21	1 Belmont	Olmstead
B.-cr. Night Heron	"	10	1 Thorold, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	11-21	1-2 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta, Rybczynski
Canada Goose	"	3	15 Shadigee	Smiths
Gadwall	"	1-31	7 (max.) Fort Erie, Ont.	several observers
	"	1-31	47 (max.) Niagara Falls, Ontario	several observers
Pintail	"	5	1 Forest Lawn Cem., Buffalo	Mitchell
Green-winged Teal	"	31	1 Niagara Falls, Ont	Klabundes
Blue-winged Teal	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>17</u>	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
American Widgeon	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>10</u>	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	21	2 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta, Rybczynski
	"	24	3 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	28	18 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Wood Duck	"	8	1 Forest Lawn Cem., Buffalo	Mitchell
Redhead	"	10	1 Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	10	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	11	3 Buffalo Harbor	Kikta



Vol. 33, No. 1 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Ring-necked Duck	Dec. 1-31	2-5	Upper Niagara R., Ont.	Axtells
"	" 3	3	Cuba Lake	Burtens
"	" 24	1	Niagara River	Burger, Brownstein
Canvasback	" 10	700	Niagara River	Mitchell et al
Greater Scaup	" 22	1900	Chippawa, Ont.	Grzybowski
Lesser Scaup	" 1-31	8-12	Niagara River, Ont.	Axtells
"	" 21	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
"	" 22,28	1,1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski
King Eider	Dec. 3	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury
"	" 4	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Hess et al
"	" 6	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
"	" 10	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
"	" 15	3	Bayview	Bourne
"	" 24	2	Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Salisbury
"	" 25,31	2,2	Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Hess, Hammond
"	" 26-31	2	Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Axtells
"	" 28	2	Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Salisbury
"	" 28	2	Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Kikta, Rybczynski
"	" 28	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Unidentified Eider	" 8	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitags
"	" 18	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Rathbun
Surf Scoter	" 1-31	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Axtells
"	" 24	1	Niagara River	Burger, Brownstein
Common Scoter	" 1-31	2	Upper Niagara R., Ont.	Axtells
Ruddy Duck	" 3	8	Cuba Lake	Burtens
Common Merganser	" 24	6000	Niagara River	Burger, Brownstein
Hooded Merganser	" 3	9	Cuba Lake	Burtens
"	" 18	33	Mayville	Rew, Rathbun
(Many records; maximum counts for month)				
Sharp-sh. Hawk	" 2-30	1-2	Belmont	Burtens, Olmstead et al
Cooper's Hawk	" 5	1	Belmont	Olmstead
"	" 6	1	Angola	Bourne
"	" 10	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
"	" 29-31	1	Belmont(f)	Burtens
Red-tailed Hawk	" 21	14	Grand Island	Benham
Rough-legged Hawk	" 4	2	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	" 19	1	Amherst	Grzybowski
"	" 28	1	Phillips Creek	Klingensmith
"	" 31	1	Belmont	Burtens
American Coot	" 3	100	Cuba Lake	Burtens
"	" 18	14	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Rathbun
(many records; maximum counts for the month)				
Killdeer	" 17	2	Belmont	Burtens
"	" 21-26	1-4	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtells
"	" 31	1	Buckhorn Is. St. Pk.	Benham
Common Snipe	" 25	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtells
Purple Sandpiper	" 25	2	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtells
Glaucous Gull	" 8	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitags
"	" 20	1	Welland, Ont.	Salisbury
"	" 21	1	Queenston, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
"	" 22,28	1,2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	" 28	1	Queenston, Ont.	Rybczynski, Kikta
Iceland Gull	" 8	1	Athol Springs	Bourne
"	" 22	2	Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski

Vol. 33, No. 1 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Iceland Gull	Dec.	24	1 Queenston, Ont.	Benham, Burger et al
	"	28	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	31	3 Queenston, Ont.	Klabundes
Little Gull	"	10	1 Queenston, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	"	11	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
Mourning Dove	"	1	13 Elma	Danner, Schafer
	"	3	7 Lyndonville	Smiths
(maximum counts for month)				
Snowy Owl	"	20	1 Lockport	Thill
	"	24	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	24	1 Lewiston	Burger, Brownstein
	"	31	1 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
Short-eared Owl	"	4,31	2,4 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	10	2 Grand Island	Mitchell et al
	"	27,30	1,2 Shadigee	Smiths
	"	28	1 Grand Island	Benham, Grzybowski
	"	29	1 Tonawanda	Hess
Saw-whet Owl	"	10-31	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	10	1 Louth Twp., Ont.	Benham
	"	24	1 Louth Twp., Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
Belted Kingfisher	"	1-31	1-3 Belmont	Olmstead, Burtons
	"	7,21	1,1 West Seneca	Kikta, Rybczynski
	"	31	1 South Wales	Mitchell, Brownstein
Yellow-sh. Flicker	"	15,29	1,2 Springbrook	Danner
	"	27-31	2 Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	28	1 Louth Twp., Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	"	17	1 Belmont	Burtons
Red-headed Wdpkr.	"	24	1 Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
Horned Lark	"	10	7 Alfred	Klingensmith
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-31	3 Athol Springs (f)	Csont
	"	1-31	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	14	1 Port Colborne, Ont. (f)	Schafer
	"	24	1 St. Catharines, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	28	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rybczynski, Kikta
Mockingbird	"	22	1 Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	24	2 Queenston, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	"	27	1 St. Catharines, Ont.	Salisbury
Robin	"	4	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	7	1 Wellsville	Burtons
	"	8	2 Springbrook	Danner
	"	10	1 Chippawa, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	19	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	19	3 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	27-31	3-5 Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	28	1 South Park	Kikta, Malcow
Northern Shrike	"	3-17	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	3	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	6	1 Derby	Bourne
	"	27	1 Shadigee	Smiths
	"	27	1 Springbrook	Danner
	"	31	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	31	1 Black Creek, Ont.	Axtells
Eastern Meadowlark	"	3	1 Lancaster	Rybczynski, Kikta



Vol. 33, No. 1 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Eastern Meadowlark	Dec.	3	10	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	6	2	Belmont	Olmstead
	"	8	3	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitags
Red-w. Blackbird	"	1-31	3-6	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	3	3	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	25, 29	1, 1	Alfred	Klingensmith
<u>*Brewer's Blackbird</u>	"	24	1	Hamburg (f)	Andrle
		(specimen collected)			
Rusty Blackbird	"	1-4	1-2	Belmont (f)	Burtens
Common Grackle	"	1-7	3-4	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	3	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	12	1	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	22	1	Cuba	Burtens
	"	28	1	Scio	Burtens
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1-31	2-10	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	1-31	2-4	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	4-29	2-30	Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	20	1	Elma	Danner, Schafer
Evening Grosbeak	"	6	15	over Belmont	Olmstead
Purple Finch	"	15, 17	1, 1	Belmont (f)	Burtens, Rosches
Pine Grosbeak	"	22	1	Louth Twp., Ont.	Grzybowski
Red Crossbill	"	8	6	Buckhorn Is. St. Pk.	Benham
	"	9	2	Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
White-w. Crossbill	"	16	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
Rufous-s. Towhee	"	14	1	Port Colborne, Ont. (f)	Schafer
	"	16	1	York's Corners	Burtens
<u>*Lark Bunting</u>	"	1-31	1	Belmont (f)	Burtens, Rosches, Eaton, et al
Wh.-thr. Sparrow	"	1-31	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	7	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	31	1	Queenston, Ont.	Klabundes
Swamp Sparrow	"	26-30	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtells
Song Sparrow	"	1	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	1-31	2	Belmont (f)	Olmstead
	"	1-31	2	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	5, 7	1, 1	Springbrook	Danner
	"	11, 13	1, 1	Hamburg (f)	Bourne
	"	27-31	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	22, 28	1, 1	Jordan, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	22, 28	1, 1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	28	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rybczynski, Kikta
Snow Bunting	"	8	40	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitags
	"	29	200	Alfred	Klingensmith
		(maximum counts for the month)			

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded:	272
Additional species, subspecies and hybrids recorded in this issue:	3
Total for 1966:	275

Errata to Vol. 31

p. 131: Purple Sandpiper, Nov. 6, 1, Wilson Harbor, Wendlings et al  
should read Purple Sandpiper, Nov. 6, 1, Wilson Harbor, Emersons

Errata to Volume 32:

p. 5: Piping Plover, Nov. 2, 1, Grant Point, Ont., Schaffner et al should read Piping Plover, Nov. 2, 1, Grant Point, Ont., Schaffner et al

p. 5: Laughing Gull, Sept. 21, 1, Bird Island Pier, Schaffner should read \*Laughing Gull, Sept. 21, 1, Bird Island Pier, Schaffner

p. 15: Red-bel. Wdpkr., Jan. 22, 29, 1, Caneadea, Burtons, Palmer should read Red-bel. Wdpkr., Jan. 22, 29, 1, Caneadea, Burtons, Palmer

p. 42: \*Eared Grebe, Mar. 13, 1, Dunkirk Harbor, Rybczynski should read \*Eared Grebe, Mar. 13, 1, Dunkirk Harbor, Rybczynski, Burger, Brownstein, et al

p. 42: Eared Grebe, Mar. 14, 1, Dunkirk Harbor, Burger, Brownstein et al should read \*Eared Grebe, Mar. 14, 1, Dunkirk Harbor, Grzybowski

p. 45: Short-eared Owl, Mar. 3,31, 1,10, Lyndonville, Smiths should read Short-eared Owl, Mar. 3-31, 1-10, Lyndonville, Smiths

p. 45: \*Purple Martin, Mar. 30, 1, Depew, Grzybowski should read \*Purple Martin, Mar. 30, 2, Depew, Grzybowski

p. 45: Canada Goose, Apr. 7, 18,000, Oak Orchard GMA, Freitag, should read Canada Goose, Apr. 7, 1800, Oak Orchard GMA, Freitag

p. 61: B.-&-wh. Warbler, Apr. 24 etc. should read \*B.-&-wh. Warbler, Apr. etc.

p. 61: B.-t. Green Warbler, Apr. etc. should read \*B.-t. Green Warbler, Apr. etc.

p. 67: April Bird Count: Retract asterisks from the following species: American Widgeon, Glaucous Gull, Red-bellied Woodpecker, & American Goldfinch

p. 74: \*Sh-b. Dowitcher, May 14, 1, Grant Point, Ont., Hess et al, should read \*Sh.-b. Dowitcher, May 14, 12, Grant Point, Ont., Hess et al

p. 77: \*Kentucky Warbler, May 21, 1, Forest Lawn, Buffalo, Hess et al, should read \*Kentucky Warbler, May 21, 1, Delaware Park, Buffalo, Hess et al

p. 81: Yellow-thr. Warbler 1 (28) should read \*Yellow-thr. Warbler 1 (28)

p. 104: Mockingbird, Aug. 28, 1, Belmont, Burtons should read Mockingbird, Aug. 26, 1, West Almond, Burtons

p. 136: Greater Scaup, Oct. 30, 6800, Port Weller, Ont., Grzybowski should read Greater Scaup, Oct. 30, 800, Port Weller, Ont., Grzybowski

p. 138: Horned Lark (E.a. alpestris) Oct. 18, 4, Elma, Danner - delete

p. 139: Wh.-cr. Sparrow, Oct. 16, 100, Allegany, Grzybowski should read White-thr. Sparrow, Oct. 16, 100, Allegany, Grzybowski

p. 154: Whistling Swan, Nov. 12, over Hamburg and Eden, Andrle, should read Whistling Swan, Nov. 12, 151, over Hamburg and Eden, Andrle.



p. 155: Lapland Longspur, Nov. 30, 1, Belmont, Burtons should read \*Lark Bunting, Nov. 30, 1, Belmont, Burtons

Addenda to 1966 Records:

Broad-winged Hawk	Aug.	27	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger et al
*Peregrine Falcon	Sept.	24	1 Lake Erie St. Park	Mitchell et al
Willet	Aug.	20	1 Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	27	1 Burnaby, Ont.	Burger et al
Knot	"	20	4 Burnaby, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	20	4 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
Pectoral Sandpiper	July	3	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein
	July	4	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein
Ruff	July	3	2 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein
Wilson's Phalarope	Aug.	20	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
Franklin's Gull	Aug.	14	1 Queenston, Ont.	Burger et al
Little Gull	Aug.	20	1 Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	25	3 Queenston, Ont.	Burger, Salisbury et al
Forster's Tern	"	30	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
Mockingbird	"	14	1 Queenston, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
Pine Grosbeak	Jan.	1	8 Amity	Burtons

Addendum to 1965 Records:

*Curlew Sandpiper	Aug.	21	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry
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CONTINENTAL BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

During the summer of 1966 the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife conducted a Breeding Bird Survey throughout the states east of the Mississippi River and the eastern Canadian provinces. The data from over 600 survey routes run by cooperators will form a basis for determining changes in songbird populations during future years. During 1967 the Survey will be expanded to cover 11 additional states west of the Mississippi River in addition to obtaining more thorough coverage of some of the eastern states, such as New York.

Each survey route is selected at random and follows a 25-mile course, to be driven by automobile. One trip is made during the month of June. Birders throughout the state, who can identify the breeding birds of New York by song and sight, and are interested in assisting with the survey, are invited to contact Chandler S. Robbins, Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Maryland 20810.

1966-67 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN B.O.S. TERRITORY

The following pages present the results of 6 Christmas Counts taken within the B.O.S. study area, December 26, 1966, - January 2, 1967. We acknowledge the cooperation of the Allegany Co. observers, Richard Rosche, Compiler; Dr. Stephen W. Eaton (Olean Count); the Jamestown Audubon Society, Mrs. Elizabeth Pillsbury, Compiler; the Lake Erie Bird Club, Richard Miga, Compiler (Dunkirk Count); and the Buffalo Audubon Society, Elma Bowen, Compiler (Hamburg - East Aurora Count).

1966-67 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN B.O.S. TERRITORY

	Olean	Dunkirk	Scio	Jamestown	Hamburg- E. Aurora	Buffalo
Date	Jan. 2	Jan. 2	Jan. 2	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Dec. 26
Horned Grebe		12				4
Pied-b. Grebe		1				1
Great Blue Heron			2			2
Whistling Swan				3		
Canada Goose					1	
Mallard	1	35		1	2	856
Black Duck		176		7		852
Gadwall						53
Pintail						56
American Widgeon						173
Wood Duck		1				1
Redhead		25				8
Ring-necked Duck						1
Canvasback		92				5000
Greater Scaup		11				1275
Lesser Scaup					1	9
Common Goldeneye		10				2583
Bufflehead		14				424
Old Squaw		1				223
King Eider						2
White-w. Scoter						2
Surf Scoter						1
Common Scoter						1
Ruddy Duck		1				
Hooded Merganser		1				5
Common Merganser		5				11500
Red-br. Merganser		7				68
Sharp-sh. Hawk		1	1			
Cooper's Hawk			1	2		
Red-tailed Hawk			2	5	16	38
Rough-leg. Hawk			1		1	2
Marsh Hawk					1	3
Sparrow Hawk	2	1	1	9	13	14
Ruffed Grouse	3		16	10	1	
Ring-n. Pheasant			10	47	388	70
Turkey		16				
American Coot						6
Killdeer						1
Common Snipe				3		1
Purple Sandpiper		2				3
Glaucous Gull						3
Iceland Gull						2
Gr. Black-b. Gull		22			4	140
Herring Gull	1	185	55		74	27000
Ring-b. Gull		715		73	342	2488
Bonaparte's Gull		137				2303
Mourning Dove			24	42	89	2
Screech Owl				2	1	3



## Vol. 33, No. 1 - 1966-67 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN B.O.S. TERRITORY (cont.)

	Olean	Dunkirk	Scio	Jamestown	Hamburg	Buffalo
Gr. Horned Owl			1	2		3
Snowy Owl				1		
Barred Owl	2			1		
Long-eared Owl		1				
Short-eared Owl						8
Saw-whet Owl					1	1
Belted Kingfisher	2		12	3	3	
Yellow-sh. Flicker		1	3		13	7
Pileated Wdpkr.	1		5	4	1	
Red-headed Wdpkr.				1	2	
Hairy Woodpecker	17	1	65	34	39	10
Downy Woodpecker	30	4	155	103	128	52
Horned Lark (E.a. praticola)			10	26	99	10
Blue Jay	179	3	732	198	212	97
Common Crow	9		86	15	990	63
Black-c. Chickadee	202	26	741	506	573	162
Tufted Titmouse	7	5		2	11	
White-br. Nuthatch	42	7	217	80	114	24
Red-br. Nuthatch	1	1	1	2	8	
Brown Creeper			1	13	15	24
Carolina Wren						1
Mockingbird				1		
Brown Thrasher					1	
Robin					16	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet		1	2		16	24
Ruby-cr. Kinglet					2	
Cedar Waxwing	21		1	6	51	
Northern Shrike			1	2	3	
Starling	197	275	778	1865	1558	30,000
Myrtle Warbler						2
Pine Warbler		1				
House Sparrow	401	73	2045	1253	2086	3670
W. Meadowlark		2		24		
Red-wing. Blackbird	4		5	40		16
Rusty Blackbird				1		
Common Grackle	1		13			14
Brown-h. Cowbird	100		54	12	35	1
Cardinal	35	3	185	100	140	81
Evening Grosbeak				59		
Purple Finch			23	3	2	
Pine Grosbeak	6		6			
Am. Goldfinch	6		9	67	42	26
Lark Bunting			1			
Rufous-s. Towhee			4	2	15	
Slate-col. Junco	56	13	173	147	213	51
Tree Sparrow	87	19	619	467	453	522
Chipping Sparrow				2	1	
Field Sparrow				1		
White-thr. Sparrow	4		1		2	1
Swamp Sparrow				5		2
Song Sparrow	6	2	12	20	10	6
Snow Bunting	200		583	4	274	

TOTAL SPECIES	30	41	42	51	51	69
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1623	1919	6657	5299	8256	90,018

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Report of the Thirty-eighth B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count

Date: December 26, 1966

Area: Centering on Grand Island, including both branches of the Niagara River and adjacent territory, from the gorge below the Falls to Fort Erie and Buffalo.

Weather: Snow flurries, temperature 23 to 28 degrees F.; wind west, 20 m.p.h.; 3 inches of snow on ground; only shallow, quiet waters frozen.

Coverage: 38 observers in 18 parties. Field observation from 7:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Groups covered 589 miles by car and 52 miles on foot.

Territories and Observers:

A. Canada: Rainbow Bridge south to Welland River, and Niagara River west to M.C.R.R., Portage Road, and area boundary. - Walter Klabunde, Harriette Klabunde, Philip Klabunde.

B. Canada: Welland River south to Black Creek, and Niagara River west to Queen Elizabeth Way and area boundary. - Richard Freitag, Paul Nevergold.

C. Canada: Queen Elizabeth Way west to area boundary and south to Bowen Road. - Arthur Clark, Robert Miller.

D. Canada: Black Creek south to Peace Bridge, and Niagara River west to Queen Elizabeth Way. - Marjorie Emerson, Mary Louise Emerson, Frank Witebsky.

E. Canada: Bowen Road south to area boundary and east to Queen Elizabeth Way and Niagara River. - Harold Axtell, Rachel Axtell.

F. Porter Road, Hyde Park Blvd., Pine Avenue, and Main Street south to Niagara River, including Goat and Cayuga Islands, and east to Military Road. - Elma Bowen, Virginia Miller.

G. Military Road southeast to N.Y. State Barge Canal, and Niagara River northeast to area boundary. - Margaret Wendling, Marie Wendling, Gertrude Ruggles.

H. Sheridan Blvd. north to N.Y. State Barge Canal, and Niagara River east to area boundary. - Gertrude Webster, Stanley Maciejewski, Francis Tilley.

J. Sheridan Blvd. east and south to area boundary, west to Niagara River. - Harold Mitchell, Gregg Hammond, Paul Hess.

K. Grand Island: West of Stony Point Road, north of Huth and Long Roads to Niagara River. - Mary Benham, Paul Benham.



L. Grand Island: Huth and Long Roads south to Whitehaven Road, and Stony Point Road west to Niagara River. - Albert Wright.

M. Grand Island: East of Stony Point Road and north of Whitehaven Road to Niagara River. - Raymond Partridge.

N. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Road, Baseline Road west to Niagara River. - Harold Freund.

O. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Road, Baseline Road east to Niagara River. - David Bigelow, Dee Bigelow.

P. Grand Island: Love Road south to Spaulding Road, from east branch to west branch of Niagara River. - Robert Andrle, Richard Byron, Joseph Thill, Phillip Silliman, Jonathan Willard.

Q. Grand Island: South of Spaulding Road, all of Beaver Island State Park. - Frances Rathbun, Frances Rew, Robert Rybczynski.

Species Recorded: Figures indicate the number of birds seen; letters indicate territories where birds were seen.

Horned Grebe	4 (A,D)	Near average.
Pied-billed Grebe	1 (A)	Tenth time on the Count.
Gr. Blue Heron	2 (A,K)	Typical of the fewer numbers in recent years.
Mallard	856	Highest number of any year.
Black Duck	852	About average.
Gadwall	53 (A,D)	Highest ever. Previous high was 6
Pintail	56 (A,F)	Second highest. 80 in 1957.
American Widgeon	173 (A,F)	Highest ever. Previous high 139 in 1965.
Wood Duck	1 (J)	Sixth time on the Count.
Redhead	8 (B,D)	Often fewer, often more.
Ring-necked Duck	1 (A)	Twelfth time on the Count.
Canvasback	5000	Third lowest in 16 years.
Greater Scaup	1275	Below average.
Lesser Scaup	9 (A,D,J)	Often fewer, often more.
Com. Goldeneye	2583	Above average.
Bufflehead	424	Highest ever. Previous high 270 in 1958.

Oldsquaw	223	Highest ever. Previous high 222 in 1950.
King Eider	2 (A)	Tenth time on the Count.
White-w. Scoter	2 (B)	One to five is usual.
Surf Scoter	1 (D,J)	Not listed previous to 1954, but recorded 11 of past 13 years.
Common Scoter	1 (D)	Recorded 14 times.
Hooded Merganser	5 (A)	More than in most years.
Com. Merganser	11,500	Highest ever. Previous high 6636.
Red-br. Merganser	68	Considerably below average.
Red-tailed Hawk	38	Above average.
Rough-legged Hawk	2 (G,J)	Considerably below average.
Marsh Hawk	3 (B,L)	Below average.
Sparrow Hawk	14	Lowest since 1943.
Ring-n. Pheasant	70	Always much higher in first 26 years. Since then this is average.
American Coot	6 (A)	Seventh time on the Count.
Killdeer	1 (E)	Fifth time on the Count.
Common Snipe	1 (E)	Second time. Two in 1941.
<u>Purple Sandpiper</u>	3 (A)	Fourth time on the Count.
Glaucous Gull	3 (A,J)	About average.
Iceland Gull	2 (A)	Near average.
Great Bl.-b. Gull	140	Near average of last 8 years.
Herring Gull	27,000	Third highest.
Ring-b. Gull	2448	Near average of last 8 years.
Bonaparte's Gull	2303	Above average. Highly variable.
Mourning Dove	2 (B,G)	Usually more.
Screech Owl	3 (P,Q)	Number recorded varies considerably.
Great Horned Owl	3 (A,D,P)	Highest since 1957.
Short-eared Owl	8 (B,L)	Number recorded varies considerably.



Vol. 33, No. 1 - Report of 38th Christmas Count (cont.)

Saw-whet Owl	1 (E)	Third time on the Count.
Yellow-sh. Flicker	7	Second highest. Eight in 1961.
Hairy Woodpecker	10	About average.
Downy Woodpecker	52	Near average.
Horned Lark	10 (C,G)	Number varies. Often not recorded.
Blue Jay	97	Never so many before 1951. This number average since then.
Common Crow	63	Second lowest of any Count.
Black-c. Chickadee	162	Near average.
White-br. Nuthatch	24	About average.
Brown Creeper	24	A little above average.
Carolina Wren	1 (K)	First time on the Count.
Robin	1 (K)	The average is two.
Golden-cr. Kinglet	24	Somewhat above average.
Starling	30,000	Same as last year.
Myrtle Warbler	2 (P)	Tenth time on the Count.
House Sparrow	3670	Highest ever. Previous high 2577.
Red-w. Blackbird	16 (Q)	Highest ever. Previous high 12 in 1950.
Common Grackle	14	Highest ever. Previous high 7 in 1965. Tenth time on the Count.
Brown-h. Cowbird	1 (Q)	Fifteenth time. Number varies.
Cardinal	81	Highest ever. Previous high 52 in 1965.
Amer. Goldfinch	26 (C,Q)	Number recorded varies considerably.
Slate-col. Junco	51	Never so high until 1946. This number average since then.
Tree Sparrow	522	Fifth highest.
White-thr. Sparrow	1 (E)	Fifteenth time.
Swamp Sparrow	2 (C,E)	Thirteenth time.
Song Sparrow	6	Somewhat below average.

TOTAL SPECIES	69	Slightly below average of last 17 years.
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	90,018	Highest ever. Previous high 86,428.

COMMENTS: Birds recorded on a majority of the previous counts but not on this one include Common Loon, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Shrike, and Meadowlark.

Some participants thought that the disagreeable weather, with strong winds and frequent heavy snow flurries, would result in low counts of a number of species. The figures disprove this theory. It is doubtful that any species in our report has a lower count attributable to the bad weather, with the possible exception of the Screech Owl, which observers usually depend on hearing and which seldom calls in windy or stormy weather. On the contrary, the bad weather may have caused higher counts of the very species that observers expected to find in smaller numbers. This is readily explained by the fact that in disagreeable weather of this sort, birds that would normally be distributed much more widely in second-rate habitats that usually are not covered well by birders tend to retreat to feeding stations, sheltered habitats, and spots with the most reliable food supplies. These latter localities are the very ones that are visited by selective Christmas counters who know how to recognize good bird habitats and who know the locations of these better habitats in their territory. There are good reasons for doubting that land birds are as common in the B.O.S. Count Area this winter as in the average previous winter, yet the 1966 count for nearly every species of small land bird was about average or above, compared with past counts. The only exceptions or near exceptions were half-hardy species. The weather in late October and early November, however, was such as greatly to encourage and permit the departure of late-migrant land birds, with the result that there are fewer half-hardy birds wintering than during the past several years. However, we had high counts of two rapidly increasing species of blackbirds, as might be expected.

The extraordinarily large counts of several kinds of ducks may be attributable to several factors: after thousands of migrating waterfowl were forced down here by a storm during the peak of their migration on November 4, the generally mild weather and open waters that ensued until after the B.O.S. Christmas Count encouraged many of these visitors to remain for our Count; the diversion of large amounts of water from the upper Niagara River for electric power has created more shallows attractive to ducks in the upper rapids; and there was greater effort to make more systematic, careful, and thorough counting of waterfowl than in some previous years. - Harold H. Axtell and Rachel Axtell, 405 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York.



PROGRAMS - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

February 22 - "Birding Experiences in the Hamburg, N.Y. Area", by Thomas L. Bourne.

March 8 - "Around the World With Birds," an illustrated talk by Gertrude Webster.

March 22 - "What Can Be Learned From T.V. Tower Kills", Dr. Stephen Eaton of St. Bonaventure University.

April 12 - Quitts Bird Slides. Review of Hawks by the Ulrichs.

PROGRAMS - FIELD TRIPS

February 26 - Ontario Plain. Meet at Tops Market Parking Lot, Center Street, Lewiston, N.Y. at 8:00 A.M. Leaders, Dr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde (754-4424).

March 18 - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for geese. Meet at Grant's Parking Lot, Main and Transit Roads at 7:30 A.M. Leader, Richard Brownstein.

April 9 - April Bird Count. For assignment of territories please contact one of the leaders, Helen Creighton (649-4111) and Lynn Rochester (649-1558).

NOTE

Applications for the Audubon Camp Scholarship, sponsored each year by the B.O.S. and the Audubon Society, should be sent in by March 21, 1967. They should be accompanied by a letter giving pertinent information, including reasons why the applicant wishes to be considered for the scholarship and ways in which he plans to make use of the knowledge he will gain. Applications should be addressed to David Bigelow, Curator of Education, Buffalo Museum of Science, Humboldt Park, Buffalo, New York 14211.

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Ave., Kenmore, New York 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

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THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Volume 33

February 1967

Number 2

## THE MONTH

January was unusually mild, with the temperature 5.3 degrees above normal, and precipitation 1.66 inches below the mean. At no time was there more than three inches of snow cover, and for a considerable period in the middle of the month the ground was largely bare, luring birds away from feeding stations. Lake Erie remained open. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

Among the more unusual birds noted were Eared Grebe, Brant, immature Black-headed Gull, and Kittiwake. Never before have so many King Eiders been seen in the Niagara Frontier. There was a controversial Eider in the Niagara Gorge throughout the month.

Also of special interest was an adult gull seen with Herring Gulls by several persons on January 1st and 2nd near the Adam Beck Reservoir at Queenston, Ontario. Different observers describe their impressions of various important details differently, but I believe there is agreement on the following points: compared directly with the Herring Gulls, both the bird and its bill were smaller; its iris was darker; the mantle was paler (there was some disagreement as to whether it was as pale as that of a typical Larus g. kumlieni); there was very much more white and very much less dark on the wingtips than in a Herring Gull; these dark areas were not quite so black as the black in the Herring Gulls' wingtips, but were much blacker than in the darkest-marked illustration of L. g. kumlieni in Neal Smith's recent monograph. After efforts toward collecting it were initiated, the bird could not be found again.

The list of 110 species and subspecies this month has been equaled in only one previous January - 1960. As might be expected, the January lists have become gradually and considerably larger over the years. From 1934 through the 1940's the average number recorded in the first month of the year was about 68; in the 1950's it was 83.6; and in the 1960's, so far, it is 100.4. In some recent years, even individual birders have

recorded as many as 100 species in January, clearly demonstrating the potentialities of winter birding in the B.O.S. study area. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year  
 F - indicates first record for the migration  
 L - indicates last record for the migration  
 (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	Jan.	7	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Pillsbury, Elderkin
Red-throated Loon	"	2	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitags, Klabundes
	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>8</u>	1 Upper Niagara River	Axtells
Red-necked Grebe	"	7	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Pillsbury, Elderkin
Horned Grebe	"	1	3 Fort Niagara	Klabundes
	"	7	5 Dunkirk Harbor	Pillsbury, Elderkin
	"	8	6 Dunkirk Harbor	Burger, Brownstein
	"	14	11 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
(Maximum counts: seven other records for month)				
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	Jan.	2,4	1,1 Buffalo Harbor	Kikta
	"	3,4	1,1 Buffalo Harbor	Axtell
Pied-billed Grebe	"	1	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham, Grzybowski
	"	2	1 Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Klabundes
	"	2	1 Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Clark, Wade
Great Blue Heron	"	2	2 Queenston, Ont.	Lunardini
	"	22	1 Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	30	1 Scio	Burtons
B-cr. Night Heron	"	4-25	1-3 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	13	1 Grand Island	Benham
<u>Mute Swan</u>	"	9,10	2,2 Point Abino, Ont.	Axtell
Canada Goose	"	22	1 Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Benham
Brant	Jan.	22	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Swanson
	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>25</u>	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Benham
Gadwall	"	1,20	1,9 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	8	2 Fort Erie, Ont.	Mitchell
	"	8	2 Dunkirk Harbor	Burger, Brownstein
Pintail	"	1	20 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Wood Duck	"	1-31	1 Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Mitchell et al
American Widgeon	"	26	50 Grand Island	Grzybowski
Redhead	"	19	86 Beaver Island State Pk.	Freitag
	"	22	46 Fort Erie, Ont.	Burger et al
	"	28	200 Beaver Island State Pk.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	28	300 West Branch, Niagara River, Grand Island	Burger, Brownstein
Ring-necked Duck	"	1	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	"	21	1 Chippawa, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	21	1 Niagara River	Rew
	"	28	1 Beaver Island State Pk.	Burger Brownstein



Canvasback	Jan.	15	2000	Port Colborne, Ont.	Clark, Wade
	"	19	1700	Beaver Island State Pk.	Freitag
Lesser Scaup	"	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	1	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
King Eider	"	1-20	1-3	Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Many observers
	"	2	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
	"	7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Buck
	"	7	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Lunardini
	"	14	22	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	16	18	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Clark et al
	"	22	4	Fort Niagara	Burger et al
White-wing. Scoter	"	15	24	Evans	Andrle et al
	"	16	100	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Clark et al
	"	21	10	Athol Springs	Bourne
Surf Scoter	"	5	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Klabundes
	"	21	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew
Common Scoter	"	3	1	West River, Grand Island	Webster, Schwenger
Ruddy Duck	"	2	2	Black Creek, Ont.	Clark et al
	"	3	1	Grand Island	Webster, Schwenger
	"	4	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham
	"	6	1	Sturgeon Point	Bourne
	"	10	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pillsbury et al
	"	18	1	Chippawa, Ont.	Clark, Wade
	"	21	1	Chippawa, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	21	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew
Hooded Merganser	"	1	4	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham
	"	1	3	Chippawa, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	2	2	Niagara Falls	Klabundes
(Maximum counts for month)					
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	1-31	1	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	7	1	Lake View	Bourne
	"	7	1	Caneadea	Burtens
Cooper's Hawk	"	5	1	Corfu	Thill
	"	7	1	Caneadea	Burtens
	"	13	1	Wellsville	Burtens
	"	20,21,28	1,2,1	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	26	1	Middleport	Thill
	"	26	1	Hamburg	Bourne
Red-tailed Hawk	"	2	11	Grand Island	McKales
Red-sh. Hawk	Jan.	14	1	Lewiston	Brownstein, Burger
Rough-leg. Hawk	"	1	1	Phillips Creek	Burtens
	"	2	1	Grand Island	Lunardini
	"	2,14	2,1	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	6	1	Derby	Bourne
	"	6,20	1,1	Eden	Bourne
	"	13	1	Clarence	Wendlings
	"	14	4	Ransomville	Klabundes
	"	20	1	Lancaster	Kikta
	"	26	1	Newfane	Grzybowski
	"	26	1	Amherst	Grzybowski
Marsh Hawk	"	2	1	Grand Island	McKales
	"	6,7	3,1	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	8	2	Wilson	McKales
	"	22	1	Lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	25	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta

Vol. 33, No. 2 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Ruffed Grouse	Jan.	21	2	Long Beach, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Turkey	"	4	3	Wellsville	Burtens
American Coot	"	8	21	Dunkirk Harbor	Burger, Brownstein
	"	24,26,30	20	Dunkirk	Grzybowski
				(Maximum counts for the month)	
Killdeer	"	2	1	Buckhorn Island St.Pk.	Lunardini
	"	15	1	Point Abino, Ont.	Clark, Wade
	"	20	1	Point Abino, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	21	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Purple Sandpiper	Jan.	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Salisbury, Benham
					et al
	Jan.	2	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells, Salisbury
					et al
Glaucous Gull	"	1	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	1	1	Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	2	1	Queenston, Ont.	Freitags
	"	4	1	Buffalo Harbor	Kikta, Rybczynski
	"	14	1	Squaw Island, Buffalo	Burger, Brownstein
	"	14	1	Niagara Falls	Burger, Brownstein
	"	17	1	Buffalo Harbor	Clark
	"	17	7	Squaw Island, Buffalo	Clark
	"	18	1	Strawberry Island	Clark
	"	20	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	22	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Burger et al
	"	22	2	Queenston, Ont.	Burger et al
	"	28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
Iceland Gull	"	1	1	Queenston, Ont.	Benham
	"	2	3	Queenston, Ont.	Klabundes
	"	14	1	Queenston, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	20	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	21	4	Queenston, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	29	2	Niagara Falls	Hess
Ring-billed Gull	"	28	8000	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
Black-headed Gull	"	8	1	Queenston, Ont.	Salisbury
Bonaparte's Gull	"	1	600	Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	28	2500	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
Little Gull	"	1	1	Queenston, Ont.	Benham et al
Black-l. Kittiwake	"	11	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
				(specimen collected)	
Mourning Dove	"	6	54	Elma	Danner, Schafer
				(Maximum count for month; nine other records)	
Snowy Owl	"	2,11	1,1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	4	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	Kikta, Rybczynski
	"	7	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	8	1	Wilson	McKales
	"	13	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
	"	14	1	Wilson	Klabundes
	"	15	2	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle et al
	"	15	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klabundes
	"	20	1	Buffalo Harbor	Grzybowski
	"	26	1	Town of Lockport	Thill
	"	29	1	over Buffalo	Hess
Long-eared Owl	"	15	1	Thunder Bay, Ont.	Clark, Wade
	"	21	1	Long Beach, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	22	4	Youngstown	Klabundes
	"	29	1	Youngstown	Klabundes



Short-eared Owl	Jan.	13	15	Grand Island	Webster, Wolfe
				(Maximum count for Grand Island; five other records)	
	"	2-22	3-8	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	2,5	2,1	Lancaster	Kikta
	"	7	1	Dunkirk	Rew, Buck
Saw-whet Owl	"	1-31	1	Rose Hill, Ont.	Axtells
	"	14,21	1,1	Louth, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	28	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Salisbury
Belted Kingfisher	"			(Eight reports for month)	
Yellow-sh. Flicker	"			(Nine reports for month)	
Pileated Woodpecker	"	4	2	Hamburg	Bourne et al
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	"	6	1	Oakfield	Benham
	"	7	1	Caneadea (f)	Burttons
	"	14	1	Point Breeze	Axtells et al
				(Orleans County)	
	"	15,21	4,1	Houghton	Burttons
	"	22	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski
Red-headed Wdpkr.	"	4	2	Hamburg	Bourne et al
	"	10	1	Jamestown	Pillsbury et al
	"	14	4	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	15	4	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Benham et al
Horned Lark	"	4	1	Elma	Danner, Schafer
( <u>E.a. alpestris</u> )	"	24	3	Elma	Grzybowski
( <u>E.a. praticola</u> )	"	3	13	Belmont	Burttons
	"	4	20	Orchard Park	Kikta, Rybczynski
	"	24	15	over Dunkirk	Grzybowski
Common Crow	"	1-31	2000	-	
				5000 Town of Niagara Roost	Klabundes
	"	28	1500	West Sencea	Kikta, Rybczynski
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-31	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	1-31	4	Athol Springs	Csont
	"	24	1	Dunkirk	Grzybowski
	"	21	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Benham et al
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	10	2	Dunkirk	Pillsbury et al
	"	21	2	Port Colborne, Ont.	Benham et al
Mockingbird	"	3,8	1,1	Queenston, Ont.	Salisbury et al
	"	20	1	Queenston, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	21	1	Louth, Ont.	Benham
	"	22	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Burger et al
	"	22	1	Jamestown	Rew, Swanson
	"	25	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Wendlings
	"	28	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	"	28	1	Louth, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	29	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Wendlings, Hess
Brown Thrasher	"	7	1	Queenston, Ont.	Klabundes
Robin	"			(Thirteen reports for month)	
Hermit Thrush	"	3	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Salisbury
Cedar Waxwing	"	1	70	Lancaster	Kikta
	"	18	70	Lake View	Bourne
				(Maximum counts for month; eight other records)	
Northern Shrike	"			(Sixteen reports for month)	
Myrtle Warbler	"	14	1	Fort Niagara	Burger, Brownstein
E. Meadowlark	"	4	6	Wellsville	Burttons
	"	6	4	Oakfield	Benham
	"	8	1	Barker	Klabundes
	"	14-22	2-3	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells

E. Meadowlark (continued)	Jan.	29	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
Red-w. Blackbird	"	3,8	1,1	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	5	2	Olean	Grzybowski, Eaton
	"	22	18	Dunnville, Ont.	Clark
	"	26	4	over Dunkirk	Grzybowski
Common Grackle	"	1	4	Chippawa, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	12	4	Wellsville	Burtens
	"	15	1	Cheektowaga	Wendlings
	"	22	1	Alabama	Grzybowski
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	1-31	2-7	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	1-17	1-6	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	1-31	30	Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	22	3	Alabama	Grzybowski
	"	22	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	22	150	Dunnville, Ont.	Clark
	"	25	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Evening Grosbeak	"	6	12	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	17	3	Hamburg	Bourne
	"	21	2	Belmont	Burtens
	"	22	4	Fluvanna (f)	Rew, Swanson
Purple Finch	"	8	8	Louth, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	"	12	2	Wellsville	Burtens
	"	28	4	Louth, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
<u>Pine Grosbeak</u>	"	3	1	Queenston, Ont.	Salisbury
				(collected)	
Pine Siskin	"	10	12	Hamburg	Bourne
American Goldfinch	"	8	200	Chippawa, Ont.	Benham et al
Red Crossbill	"	22	1	Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Hammond
<u>Lark Bunting</u>	"	1-31	1	Belmont (f)	Burtens
<u>Oregon Junco</u>	"	12-31	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	22	1	Lewiston (f)	Klabundes
Vesper Sparrow	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>22</u>	1	Point Breeze (Orleans County)	Axtells
White-cr. Sparrow	"	1	1	Queenston, Ont.	Benham
	"	8	30	Newfane	Klabundes
	"	26	7	Newfane	Grzybowski
White-thr. Sparrow	"	1-31	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	1-31	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
Song Sparrow	"			(ten reports for month)	
Swamp Sparrow	"	1-31	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtell
Lapland Longspur	"	23	3	Lake View	Bourne
	"	24	21	Elma	Grzybowski
	"	25	20	Elma	Kikta, Malcow
	"	25	1	Boston	Bourne
Snow Bunting	"	11	350	North Collins	Kikta
	"	12,16	1000	Elma	Danner
	"	25	650	Boston	Bourne

Additional Species observed in January, 1967: Mallard, Black Duck, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Sparrow Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee,



White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling,  
House Sparrow, Cardinal, Slate-colored Junco.

Species and Subspecies recorded in January 1967: 110

STATISTICIANS' NOTE

Reports of Red-bellied Woodpeckers from Allegany County will not require  
verifying write-ups henceforth unless future notice is given to the  
contrary.

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ERRATA TO VOLUME 33, NUMBER 1, PAGE 9:

W. Meadowlark should read E. Meadowlark.

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A REMINDER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The research project to secure information on the birds of the  
Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge is continuing, and there is need for a  
great deal more field work there. The coming months of spring, summer  
and autumn are the crucial times in which to accumulate significant data.  
Of particular importance are the spring and fall land bird migrations, the  
breeding season species, and, with the establishment of more water areas  
on the refuge, the waterfowl situation and shorebird occurrences. The  
attention of members is called to the article giving details on this  
project in the September 1966 issue of The Prothonotary. Maps showing  
the boundaries of the refuge are available at Refuge Headquarters or from  
the Research Committee Chairman. We strongly urge that members try to  
visit this interesting area as often as possible during the year so that  
a really informative list can be assembled.

Robert F. Andrle  
Chairman, Research Committee

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESREPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH FEDERATION WATERFOWL COUNT FOR REGION I,  
JANUARY 14-17

The Thirteenth Annual Mid-winter Waterfowl Count of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was taken during the January 14 - 22 period in Region #1. Most of the observations were made on either the 14th or the 15th, but Delaware Park and Forest Lawn were not covered until the 17th. The only new bird which has not previously been reported on this Waterfowl Count from Region #1 was a Brant which was sighted in Dunkirk Harbor on the 21st. Probably due to the mild early winter, 25 species were observed (plus Lesser Scaup), compared with 19 species last year, when the early winter was much colder. Our total count of 34,962 individuals compares with only 20,652 in 1966.

More Horned Grebes, Canada Geese, Mallards, Gadwalls, Pintails, American Widgeons, Redheads, Buffleheads, King Eiders, White-winged Scoters, Hooded Mergansers and Coot were reported then on any previous Federation Waterfowl Count in Region #1, while Black Ducks and Canvasbacks were lower in numbers than last year.

Species Recorded: Figures in parenthesis indicate territory numbers where the species was recorded from three or fewer territories.

Horned Grebe	17	(4,9,10)	Canvasback	2565
Pied-billed Grebe	1	(10)	Greater Scaup	5196
Whistling Swan	3	(11)	Lesser Scaup	28 (4,5,7)
Canada Goose	178		Common Goldeneye	5389
Brant	1	(10)	Bufflehead	425
Mallard	1473		Oldsquaw	2457
Black Duck	1265		King Eider	26 (5,6)
Gadwall	54	(4,10)	White-winged Scoter	328
Pintail	49	(2,14)	Ruddy Duck	1 (5)
Green-winged Teal	2	(2)	Hooded Merganser	9
American Widgeon	334		Common Merganser	13944
Wood Duck	1	(1)	Red-br. Merganser	385
Redhead	316		American Coot	45
			Unidentified Waterf.	470
			TOTAL	34,962

Two Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at South Park Lake on January 15 by Kikta. The count on the Common Mergansers was the second largest on record for Region #1, compared to 15,192 in 1960 and 6,924 last year. Most of them were in a large flock extending from the north side of Navy Island to a short distance above Goat Island. The 3 Whistling Swans were seen at the Outlet of Chautauqua Lake.

Territories and Observers: Names underlined denote those responsible for the coverage of that territory.

- 1) Delaware Park and Forest Lawn - Dr. Arthur F. Freitag.
- 2) Niagara River, Buffalo to Goat Island - Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Ulrich,  
Mrs. Janice Fischer, Virginia Miller, Harold D. Mitchell.



- 3) Niagara River, Gorge to Fort Niagara - Paul Nevergold, Arthur and Richard Freitag.
- 4) Niagara River, Fort Erie to Niagara Falls - Frances M. Rew, Frances H. Rathburn, Robert Hutchins, Robert Rybczynski.
- 5) Niagara River, Gorge to Niagara-on-the Lake - Richard Brownstein, Joanna Burger.
- 6) Fort Niagara to Olcott - Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde.
- 7) Olcott to Point Breeze - Dr. and Mrs. Harold Axtell, Virgil Lunardini, Paul Hess.
- 8) Grand Island - Paul Benham.
- 9) Buffalo to Irving - Dr. Robert F. Andrle, Richard Byron, Thomas L. Bourne, Phillip Silliman, Jonathan Willard.
- 10) Dunkirk to Westfield - Richard E. Miga, Dr. Allen H. Benton, Dr. Donald
- 11) Chautauqua Lake Area - Mrs. Russell Pillsbury, et al.
- 12) Allegheny River Area - Dr. Stephen W. Eaton.
- 13) Allegheny County Area - Mr. and Mrs. Lou L. Burton, Clarence Klingersmith.
- 14) Iroquois Refuge - Lawrence Smith, Mr. Morse.
- 15) Oak Orchard Game Management Area - Oliver Meddaugh.
- 16) Williamsville and vicinity - Marie and Margaret Wendling.
- 17) Batavia and vicinity - Mrs. Ory L. Pixley.
- 18) Crystal and Silver Lake - Fred T. Hall.

I thank all who took part in the Count for their assistance.

### 1966 NESTING RECORDS

#### Abbreviations Used:

br	-	brood	NE	-	nest with eggs
dYO	-	downy young out of nest	N4E	-	nest with 4 eggs
(h)	-	nest in bird house	N4Y	-	nest with 4 young
N	-	nest (contents unknown)	YO	-	young out of nest

Pied-billed Grebe	May	27	3YO Tifft Street, Buffalo	Kikta
	June	30	6YO Tifft Street, Buffalo	Kikta
Great Blue Heron	June	29	N3Y Belmont	Burtens
	June	29	N2Y Belmont	Burtens
	(both records from same colony)			
Mallard	June	15	7dYO Langford	Bourne
Black Duck	May	27	2YO Tifft Street, Buffalo	Kikta
	June	7	6YO Langford	Bourne
Green-wing. Teal	July	30	1YO Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein, et al
Blue-wing. Teal	June	7	5YO Eden	Bourne
	July	10	4YO Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Salisbury

Vol. 33, No. 2 - 1966 Nesting Records (cont.)

Wood Duck	June 7	7dYO Eden	Bourne
	June 30	6YO Alfred	Klingensmith
	Aug. 7	8YO Alma	Burtens
Marsh Hawk	May 1	N4E Wainfleet, Ont.	Seeber et al
	May 18	N5E Wainfleet, Ont.	Seeber et al
	June 1	N4Y Wainfleet, Ont.	Seeber et al
	June 11	N5Y Wainfleet, Ont.	Andrle, Thill
	(all records of same nest)		
Gray Partridge	July 9	1YO Dunnville, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Sora	July 24	1dYO Riverside Marsh	Rew
Common Gallinule	June 22	6YO South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	June 27	5YO South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	June 27	3YO South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	(above records refer to three different broods)		
Killdeer	May 23	N4E Lancaster	Grzybowski
	June 13	N4Y Lancaster	Grzybowski
	June 14	4dYO Lancaster	Grzybowski
	(all records of same nest and brood)		
Upland Plover	June 16	2YO Lake View	Bourne
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	Aug. 3	N Navy Island, Ontario	Yaki
	(two adults at nest)		
Barn Owl	June 12	N4Y Alden	Grzybowski,
			Wolfling
	June 30	N4Y Alden	Grzybowski
	July 2	N4Y Alden	Grzybowski
	(above three records refer to same nest)		
	June 21	N1Y, 1E Hamburg	Bourne
Great Horned Owl	Feb. 26	N Long Beach Ontario	Andrle, Booth
	(adult on nest)		
	Apr. 12-30	N2Y Belmont	Burtens, Olmstead
	May 11	N1Y Chamber's Corners, Ont.	Seeber et al
Long-eared Owl	Aug. 8	2YO Wellsville	Burtens
Belted Kingfisher	June 30	N4Y Lancaster	Grzybowski
Red-headed Wdpkr.	Aug. 19	2YO Batavia	Buckland
	Aug. 31	2YO Transit	Burtens
Bank Swallow	June 30	N5E Lancaster	Grzybowski
	June 30	3N2Y Lancaster	Grzybowski
	June 30	6N3Y Lancaster	Grzybowski
	June 30	N4Y Lancaster	Grzybowski
	June 30	4N4E Clarence	Grzybowski
	June 30	3N5E Clarence	Grzybowski
	June 30	14N2Y Clarence	Grzybowski



Bank Swallow (cont.)	June 30	21N3Y Clarence	Grzybowski
	June 30	17N4Y Clarence	Grzybowski
	June 30	6N5Y Clarence	Grzybowski
Brown Creeper	June 11	N Beaver Meadow Sanctuary	Benham
		(two adults at nest)	
Cedar Waxwing	Sept. 3	3Y0 Belmont	Burtons
	Sept. 24	N2Y Chestnut Ridge	Bigelow
	Oct. 1	N2Y Chestnut Ridge	Axtell
		(previous two records refer to same nest)	
	Oct. 5	3Y0 North Boston	Dodges
Ovenbird	July 4	N4E Sardina	Andrle
American Redstart	Aug. 7	1Y0 Alma	Burtons
House Sparrow	Apr. 23	N3E Snyder	Mitchell
Western Meadowlark	June 11	N5Y Wainfleet, Ontario	Andrle, Thill
	June 27	N4Y Wainfleet, Ontario	Grzybowski
		(above two records refer to same nest)	
American Goldfinch	Aug. 26	1Y0 Belmont	Burtons
Slate-col. Junco	July 8	N2Y Ellicottville	Benham
	July 16	N4E Alfred	Klingensmith
	July 25	N3Y,	
		1E Alfred	Klingensmith
		(above two records refer to same nest)	
Song Sparrow	May 19	N2E Lancaster	Grzybowski

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# NOTICE

Saturday morning bird walks will be held at 8:00 a.m. on the following mornings:

April 22 - Dr. Freitag	May 13 - Ray Regone
April 29 - Clarence Rote	May 20 - the Wendlings
May 6 - Sheldon Merritt	May 27 - Gertrude Webster

Walks will start at Rumsey and Windsor roads and will be in Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery.

LARK BUNTING AT BELMONT

A NEW SPECIES FOR THE B.O.S. STUDY AREA

Lou and Doris Burton, Edwin Olmstead

On the afternoon of November 30 at about 3:15, we noticed a strange bird, in company with tree sparrows, English Sparrows, and cowbirds, at our snow covered feeding station. We immediately called Ed Olmstead, who came over, and we made a sketch of the bird, indicating the distinctive markings. Then began a diligent search of our books and guides. Several possibilities were discussed and eliminated, but it remained for Richard Rosche to give us a clue to the identification. Steve Eaton, bringing over Forbush's BIRDS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES, reaffirmed our identification of the bird as a Lark Bunting.

On December 1 Ed Olmstead took a series of slides, which when developed were sent as follows: one to Richard Rosche of New Jersey, because of his familiarity with the area, and two slides to Stephen Eaton of St. Bonaventure. On December 14th Stephen Eaton visited the feeding station and made a tape of his observations. He identified the bird as a Lark Bunting, probable male. On December 15 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rosche, driving up from New Jersey following a telephone call to ask if the bird was still with us, and noting from the slide a probable Lark Bunting, identified the bird as a Lark Bunting. Katherine Palmer of Fillmore also observed the bird and agreed on the identification. The B.O.S. was notified on December 14 of the identification of the bird by Steve Eaton. The bird was observed on December 17 by six members of the B.O.S. including: Dick Brownstein, Joanna Burger, Paul Hess, Paul Benham, Don Salisbury, Joe Grzybowski. None disagreed on the identification.

Location

Our feeding station is located north of our two-story home so that it may be viewed from two large picture windows. Our home is located just over the main east-west line of the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad that follows through Belmont the Genesee River. Our farm of 70 acres is cultivated, with a stream about 100 yards from our dwelling which rises in the nearby Hood and Willets Hills, which reach an elevation of 1800 feet. The farmstead in the fertile valley has an elevation of 1400 feet. The stream is lined with a hedge of multiflora rose to the south and a marsh area of alder, poplar and a few coniferous trees to the north. A seven-acre weed-grown field is across the creek directly to the north of the feeding area. The home area has been largely planted to trees and shrubs to provide food and shelter for wildlife including honeysuckle, lilac, rose, willow, juniper and crabapple. A deep ditch follows the railroad grade which is overgrown with elderberry, sumac and other native weeds and shrubs. Some 60 species of birds visit the area during an average year.

The garage provided nesting for Barn Swallows and the exterior a colony of Cliff Swallows. The martin house was occupied. Each winter the area is visited by Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, who make an occasional kill from the very large flock of English Sparrows. Red Tail and Marsh Hawks have visited us as well.



We wonder, because of our location, if the Lark Bunting hitched a ride aboard the railroad and find our siding a good stopping place, or came in a strange flock from the west. Since we keep a daily watch at the station we doubt that he was with us before the 30th or else he was in the fields with good provisions. All of our storms immediately prior to the observation were from the north, with no southern winds for some time before.

Observations of the bird were made with the naked eye, 7x35, 7x50 binoculars, and Bauch and Lomb 20x scope at distances ranging from ten feet to one hundred and fifty yards.

### Diagnostic Habits

The bird was first observed on the afternoon of November 30 at our feeding station, in the company of a number of cowbirds and English Sparrows. They were feeding on the spillage from a small feeder containing fine bird seed (hemp, millet, etc.). He was an aggressive individual, much as a White-crowned Sparrow is, when feeding with a multitude of sparrows, blackbirds, grackles and Blue Jays. That first afternoon he remained after the sparrows had left for their roost and continued feeding with the Cardinals. The next morning and for several mornings afterward he appeared in the morning with the Cardinals and Tree Sparrows. During the first few days he was not at all timid or flighty, but as days went on he began to come and go at irregular intervals with flocks of English Sparrows. The sparrows feed chiefly on intermediate size cracked corn and it was in these feeding areas that the bird developed the habit of flushing with the English Sparrows. The sparrows usually flush low into the adjoining thicket of rose briars. Sometimes on returning, the bird and sparrows perch high in a mature pear tree and on occasion on the utility lines. It was while so perched in other larger shrubs that Steve Eaton called our attention to the pumping of its tail, similar to a Phoebe's, but not as frequent.

On two mornings I have flushed the bird, in company of a large flock (50 or more) of English Sparrows, from a multiflora rose thicket, where we presume he roosted on the mild days.

As with all feeder birds, he spends more time in the feeding area when the ground was snow-covered and the temperatures were below freezing (to -15°F). His flight usually seems very direct from area to area comparable to that of the English Sparrows and Tree Sparrows. The bird usually appears with raised crest so as to give him a puffy appearance, quite similar to that of the Purple Finch. On occasion, however, when perched, the crest was laid flat and his head appeared very sleek and trim. Under such circumstances the bill appeared much in the proportions of a grosbeak.

When feeding on the ground he usually remains in one position, reaching out with head and neck to reach the feed. When moving to a new location on the ground he hops and on occasion runs-much as a sparrow chasing a feather or insect.

### Description of the Bird

The general appearance is that of a medium-brown bird with darker streaks and buffy feather tips and edgings above, lighter underparts

also dark streaked from heavy blotched area on breast continuing to the vent, heavy bill and puffy head. A white patch in the center of the tail tip. Very fine white marginal edging on the outside of the tail. The bird was larger than English Sparrows, smaller than cowbirds.

The crown is dark brown streaked with lighter brown. A distinct buffy eyeline extends from the bill, touching the upper portion of the eye ring and continued to the auriculars. The auriculars are barely discernible. Just below and to the rear of the auriculars is a very distinct buffy patch. A buffy, distinct eye ring surrounds completely a large, dark iris. The bill is large and conical, ringed with short black feathers. The upper mandible is a dark, blue-grey horn color, the lower mandible a lighter and uniform horn color.

The nape, back, and rump are dark brown with feather edges and tips buffy. In a breeze, as the feathers lift, they appear darker below. The dark brown converts terminate in buffy patches, giving the appearance of wing bar. A large, long, buffy wing patch is distinctive. The wing primaries are dark brown-edged and tipped buffy.

The tail, when viewed from above, is dark brown with buffy edges and a distinctive white line on the outer tail feather. The inner web of the tail flights show a distinctive white patch when viewed from above or below. From below, when pumping tail or in flight, a thin margin of white is distinctive of the tail feathers, which are black in color.

The chin of the bird is very dark and the throat with heavy dark blotches nearly connected on the lighter areas. The white breast is again very heavily streaked, with the center area almost a blotch. The belly is white with continuous streaks rearward toward the vent. A dark median streak extends from the center blotch on breast continuously to the vent. The legs appear long for a finch as it stretches upward, and the tarsi are a very deep brown and the feet are black.

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#### PROGRAMS - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

March 22 - "What Can Be Learned From T.V. Tower Kills", Dr. Stephen Eaton of St. Bonaventure's University.

April 12 - Quitts Bird Slides. Review of Hawks by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ulrich.

April 26 - Meeting preceded by dinner at 6:30 sharp in the Buffalo Museum of Science at which John Bull will be guest of honor. John Bull is the author of Birds of New York City Region and has been selected by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs as editor of a new Birds of New York State. Please send dinner reservations to K. Praemassing, 87 Linden Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214 by April 17. Price \$5.00. If you can't attend the dinner, please try to attend the meeting anyway.



May 10 - Regular meeting. Program to be announced.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

March 18 - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for geese. Meet at Grant's Parking Lot, Main and Transit Roads at 7:30 A.M. Leader, Richard Brownstein.

April 9 - April Bird Count. For assignment of territory please contact one of the leaders -- Helen Creighton (649-4111) or Lynn Rochester (649-1558).

April 21 - B.O.S. Sanctuary at dusk for Woodcock. Meet at the sanctuary, Love Road, Grand Island at 7:00 P.M. Leaders, Marie and Margaret Wendling (632-6625).

May 6 - 7 - Annual Pymatuning Spring Weekend. Details to be announced.

May 21 - May Bird Count. For assignment of territory please contact the leader, Marie Wendling (632-6625).

May 27 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Whimbrels.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

BACK ISSUES: Available at \$.15 per copy from the Treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$1.50 per year, payable to the Treasurer.

EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301.

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DINNER RESERVATION COUPON

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for me for B.O.S. Dinner at \$5.00 each. Enclosed is check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Dinner is Wednesday, April 26, at 6:30 sharp, in the Buffalo Museum of Science.

My guests will be \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_





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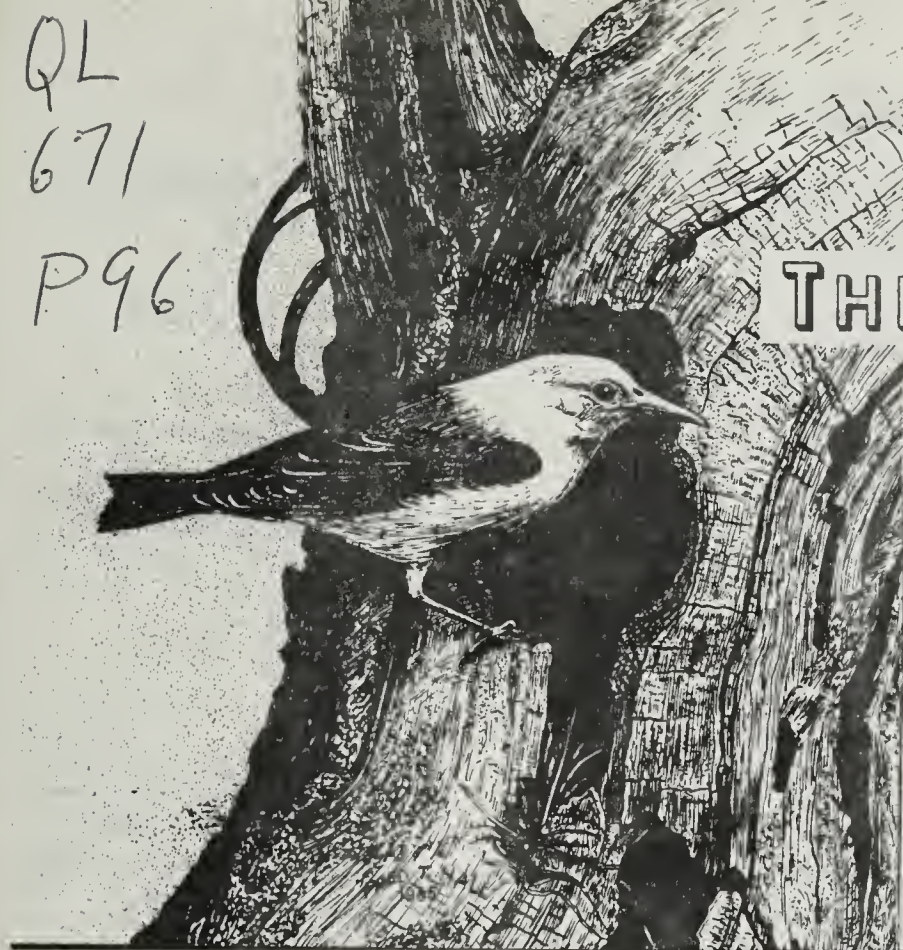
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# THE PROTHONOTARY



PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 33

March 1967

Number 3

## THE MONTH

February was cold, with the temperature averaging 3.5 degrees below the mean. Only the 14th and 15th were somewhat springlike, and although these warmer days followed immediately after sub-zero temperatures, apparently a few Robins and Red-winged Blackbirds and individuals of several other species migrated in, and on the 15th a Red-tailed Hawk was seen carrying nesting material to a nest near Nye Road in Ontario while its mate watched. Winter weather returned on the 16th, however, with one of the most memorable and destructive windstorms in Buffalo's recent history; for several hours in the early morning, the wind maintained a velocity between 55 and 60 m.p.h. with gusts up to 82 m.p.h. Precipitation, 1.39 inches, was about one-half the normal amount for February. The deepest snow cover was 6 inches, but the ground was mostly bare during the last half of the month, causing poor attendance at bird feeding stations. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) The unusually warm January permitted Lake Erie to remain open longer than in most winters, but the east end above the ice boom froze over about February 7.

Two or three Purple Sandpipers apparently wintered successfully at Dunkirk Harbor. A Boreal Owl was found on the George Troup farm in Louth Township near St. Catharines, Ontario - the same place as a March, 1963, record. The Lark Bunting continued to visit the Burtons' feeding station in Belmont. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations



Vol. 33, No. 3 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Horned Grebe	Feb.	18	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Ulrichs
Great Blue Heron	"	9	1 Thorold, Ont.	Salisbury
B.-cr. Night Heron	"	1	3 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Canada Goose	"	19	1 West River, Grand Island	Freitag, Hess
	"	23	1 Upper Niagara River, Ont.	Freitag
Gadwall	"	4	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	10	8 Dunkirk Harbor	Elderkin
	"	18	10 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Ulrichs
American Widgeon	"	4	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Mitchell et al
Wood Duck	Feb.	1-28	1 Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Mitchell
Redhead	"	23	280 Upper Niagara River, Ont.	Freitag
Ring-necked Duck	"	23	1 Upper Niagara River, Ont.	Freitag
Greater Scaup	"	15	1400 Buffalo Harbor	Kikta
Lesser Scaup	"	10	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Elderkin
Oldsquaw	"	12-26	1000 Lewiston	Klabundes
King Eider	"	4	1 Niag.-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	11	1 Niag.-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Salisbury
White-w. Scoter	"	12	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Elderkin
Hooded Merganser	"	4	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Mitchell et al
Common Merganser	"	4	1500 Strawberry Island (Niagara River)	Hess et al
*Goshawk	"	4	1 Eden	Bigelows
Cooper's Hawk	"	19	1 Wellsville	Burtons
	"	22	1 Buffalo	Kikta
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	2-12	1 Belmont	Burtons
Rough-leg. Hawk	"	4, 12	1, 2 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	11	2 Lancaster	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	12	1 Lancaster	McKales
*Bald Eagle	"	5	1 Navy Island, Ont. (Immature)	Benham
	"	5	1 Navy Island, Ont. (Immature)	McKales
	"	25	1 Navy Island, Ont. (sub-adult)	Benham
	"	26	1 Navy Island, Ont. (sub-adult)	Rybczynski, Wendlings
	"	26	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
Marsh Hawk	"	11	1 Lewiston	Rew
	"	17	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
American Coot	"	10	8 Dunkirk Harbor	Elderkin
	"	12	1 Upper Niagara River, Ont.	Freitag
	"	18	19 Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Ulrichs
Killdeer	"	16, 17	1, 1 Wellsville	Burtons
Purple Sandpiper	Feb.	18	2 Dunkirk	Rew et al
Glaucous Gull	"	4	7 Queenston, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	"	4	2 Queenston, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	"	11	1 Niag.-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Benham
	"	12	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
Iceland Gull	"	4	5 Queenston, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	"	4	1 Niagara Gorge, Ont.	Mitchell et al
Black-headed Gull	"	11	1 Queenston, Ont.	Salisbury et al
Mourning Dove	"	4	7 Caneadea	Burtons
	"	5	26 Lancaster	Rew
	"	13	21 Lyndonville	Smiths

(maximum counts for month)



Vol. 33, No. 3 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

*Barn Owl	Feb. 18, 26	1, 1	Wilson Cemetery	Klabundes
Snowy Owl	" 4-10	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 8	1	Somerset	Benham
	" 13-17	1-2	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 18	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham
	" 25	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klabundes
Long-eared Owl	" 18	1	Oakland	Klabundes
Short-eared Owl	" 4-26	1-6	Lyndonville	Smiths
	" 7	5	Grand Island	Benham
	" 8	2	Yates	Benham
	" 12	10	Grand Island	Freitags
	" 19	1	Ransomville	Klabundes
	" 22	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Webster, Bill
	" 22	4	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Webster, Bill
*Boreal Owl	" 19	1	Louth Twp., Ont. (specimen collected)	Salisbury
Saw-whet Owl	" 1-4	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	" 4	1	Louth Twp., Ont.	Benham
	" 19	2	Louth Twp., Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	" 25	1	Louth Twp., Ont.	Salisbury
Belted Kingfisher	" 1-28	1-2	Belmont	Burtons
	" 5	1	Belmont	Grzybowski, Klemer
	" 18	1	Sinclairville	Rew, Ulrichs
	" 25	1	Alden Center	Rybczynski
Yellow-sh. Flicker	" 1-28	2-3	Lewiston	Klabundes
	" 14	1	West Seneca	Kikta
	" 15	1	Eden	Bourne
	" 15	1	Elma	Kikta
Pileated Woodpecker	" 18	1	Waterport	Smiths
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	" 4	1	Caneadea	Burtons
	" 12, 19, 26	1, 1, 1	Johnson Creek	Klabundes
	" 15	1	Transit Bridge	Olmstead
	" 15-22	1	Town of Batavia	Buckland
	" 18	2	Transit	Burtons
Horned Lark	" 1	2	Eden	Bourne
( <u>E.a. alpestris</u> )	" 11	4	Ontario Plain	Klabundes
	" 12	1	Belmont	Burger et al
	" 22, 27	2, 2	Elma	Danner
	" 25	1	Lancaster	Kikta, Rybczynski
	" 26	1	Ontario Plain	Klabundes
( <u>E.a. praticola</u> )	" 12	100	Elma	McKales
	" 12	300	Cassadaga	Elderkin
Common Crow	" 11	2000	Lewiston (crow roost)	Klabundes
	" 13	1200	West Seneca	Kikta
Tufted Titmouse	" 1	1	St. Bonaventure	Grzybowski
	" 1-28	1	Lewiston (f)	Klabundes
	" 10	2	Fredonia (f)	Elderkin
	" 18	1	Dunkirk	Rew, Ulrichs
	" 18	2	Stockton (f)	Rew, Ulrichs
	" 25	1	Cheektowaga (f)	Rybczynski, Kikta
Red-br. Nuthatch	" 4	1	Water Valley	Bourne
	" 4	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Mitchell et al
	" 10	1	Fredonia (f)	Elderkin
	" 13	1	Belmont	Burtons

Vol. 33, No. 3 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Red-br. Nuthatch	Feb.	18	1 Dunkirk	Rew, Ulrichs
(continued)	"	18	1 Stockton (f)	Burtens
Mockingbird	"	4	1 Niag.-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Hess et al
	"	19	1 Lockport	Salisbury
	"	19	1 Queenston, Ont.	Kikta
Robin	"	15	13 Elma	Kikta
(maximum count for the month; nine other records of individual birds)				
*Eastern Bluebird	Feb.	12F	1 Lakeview	Rybcaynski et al
Cedar Waxwing	"	18	26 Aurora	Kikta, Rybczynski
	"	26, 27	15, 15 Belmont	Burtens
Northern Shrike	"	26	4 Ontario Plain	Klabundes
(maximum count; eight other records for month)				
Eastern Meadowlark	"	9, 22	1, 7 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	5	2 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	10	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	11	4 Lancaster	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	11	1 Town of Porter	Rew
	"	18	1 Ransomville	Klabundes
Red-wing. Blackbird	"	2	1 Hamburg(f)	Bourne
	"	4	2 Belmont	Burtens
	"	4-28	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
	"	5	2 Belmont	Grzybowski et al
*Rusty Blackbird	"	1	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Benham
	"	5, 19	1, 1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
Common Grackle	"	18	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	3-27	3-30 Belmont	Burtens
	"	14	13 Belmont	Olmstead
(maximum counts for month; several other records)				
Cardinal	"	1-28	29 Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
Evening Grosbeak	"	1-28	6-50 Belmont (f)	Olmstead
Pine Grosbeak	"	18	2 Dunkirk	Rew, Ulrichs
Pine Siskin	"	1	4 St. Bonaventure	Grzybowski
	"	4	70 Niag.-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Hess et al
	"	25	8 St. Catharines, Ont.	Klabundes
*White-w. Crossbill	"	28	5 Hamburg	Bourne
Lark Bunting	"	1-28	1 Belmont (f)	Burtens
Oregon Junco	"	1-28	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells
White-cr. Sparrow	"	12	4 Newfane	Klabundes
	"	17	1 Jamestown (f)	Elderkin
	"	18	1 Ransomville	Klabundes
White-thr. Sparrow	"	1-28	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Swamp Sparrow	"	1-28	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtells
	"	25	1 St. Catharines, Ont.	Klabundes
Song Sparrow	"	17-28	2-4 Springbrook	Danner
(maximum count for month; nine other records)				
Lapland Longspur	"	1	2 Eden	Bourne
	"	6-14	1-3 Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	11	1 Lancaster	Rybczynski
	"	11	50 Ontario Plain	Klabundes
	"	22	300 Elma	Danner
	"	25	5 Lancaster	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	27	4 Elma	Danner
Snow Bunting	"	3	250 Stamford Ont.	Sommerville
	"	5-28	60-300 Rose Hill Road, Ont.(f)	Axtells



Snow Bunting	Feb.	8	200 Albion	Benham
(continued)	"	12	300 Cassadaga	Elderkin
	"	12	210 Springbrook	Burger et al
	"	13	300 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	26	200 Alfred	Klingensmith
(maximum counts for the month)				

Species and subspecies previously recorded:	110
Additional species and subspecies recorded in this issue:	7
Total for 1967:	117

"BIRDS OF WYOMING COUNTY" PUBLISHED

The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences has announced that Volume 23, a Bulletin of the Society entitled "Birds of Wyoming County, New York" by Richard C. Rosche, is now off the press and is available from the Museum at \$2.75 per copy. For those who are interested in Wyoming County, Mr. Rosche has gone into considerable detail regarding the habitats of special interest in the county, such as the Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge, Lake Leroy, Silver Lake, Java Lake, and the Genesee River Valley as typical examples.

His species accounts give the status of the birds in the county and includes a map of the county and charts showing the summer distributions of a number of the birds in the county. For instance, known nesting areas for the Upland Plover, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows are shown.

For those who may wish to do some serious work on the nesting birds in the county, Mr. Rosche shows question marks under the column labeled "Nests" in the index in the last pages of the book. These question marks show that the bird is believed to nest but no actual nesting record has been obtained.

O R G A N I Z A T I O N   A C T I V I T I E S

Ontario Plains Field Trip - February 26, 1967

Eighteen birders arrived for the scheduled field trip on the Ontario Plains on February 26, they were rewarded at the first observation stop with the bird of the day --- an immature Bald Eagle, which flew along the river and alighted on floating ice where all could observe it. Numerous Oldsquaw, a few Goldeneye, Scaup, Canvasback, Herring and Ring-b. Gulls and several Crows were also seen here on the Niagara River at the end of Center Street in Lewiston.

A snow storm swirled around us at Four-Mile Creek State Park and no birds were seen. The cemetery here was equally disappointing.

At the Wilson cemetery we flushed a Barn Owl from the huge Spruce trees and flew about before disappearing in some tall evergreens down at the edge of the marsh. One of the birders flushed the owl, which then flew back toward the cemetery, affording a good view. A small flock of Snow Bunting flew over as we looked for birds near the yacht clubs.

Horned Larks were seen in pairs in many fields, as well as in small groups of six to ten. These were almost all E.a. praticola with one alpestris observed. A few small flocks of Tree Sparrows and about thirty pheasants were also seen.

A Great Horned Owl was observed on the nest in the woods west of Brown Road. This nest has been used by the owls in previous years.

Ten Red-tailed Hawks, five Sparrow Hawks and four Nothern Shrike were counted during the day.

The field trip concluded with a search for the Red-bellied Woodpecker found during the two preceding weeks in an extensive woods on the east side of Johnson Creek Road between the Old Lake Road and Route 18. This woods is mostly mixed deciduous - Beech, Birch, Elm, - with several tall Hemlocks and many young Hemlock. A wide creek runs through the woods - fortunately frozen at this time. Chickadees, Wh.-br. Nuthatches, a Brown Creeper, Golden-cr. Kinglet and several Downy Woodpeckers appeared. A Great Horned Owl slipped from a nest and, finally, the Red-bellied Woodpecker settled silently on a near tree long enough for some of the group to see it well. We were sorry it did not give its distinctive call as it had on our previous visits to the woods.

Walter and Harriette Klabunde

Niagara River Field Trip - January 29, 1967

Seven members met at Vermont Street and Busti Avenue at 8:00 A.M., January 29, 1967 in a dense snow squall: - Virginia Miller, Clarence Rote, Gertrude Ruggles, Margaret and Marie Wendling, the Ulrichs, Paul Hess (guest).

The question : - Go or Not to go? Marie Wendling made the decision -



"Now that I am this far, I am going." Everyone fell in line and we crossed the Peace Bridge even though we could not see the Canadian shore for the snow. We were hardly over the river when the storm seemed to lessen and showed an interesting collection of waterfowl to the south of the Peace Bridge: - Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Oldsquaw, Common & Red-breasted Mergansers and Buffleheads (much in evidence).

Three Canadian members - Dr. R.L. Sommerville, Fort Erie and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Inglis, Hamilton joined our group on the Canadian side of the Peace Bridge.

Since the major storm area was more intense from jaeger rocks to the lake, we turned and proceeded down river toward better visibility and eventually clear weather.

The Fort Erie marsh sanctuary was disappointing. Fishermen had been gathering minnows for bait just prior to our arrival. However, there were a goodly number of Blacks, few Mallards & Common Mergansers, a pair each of Gadwall and White-winged Scoters, one or two Red-breasted Mergansers and a flock of 65 + Ring-billed Gulls on the river just south of the Int. R.R. bridge.

By 9:00 a.m. the sun was out, snowing had stopped, the highway snow plows and sanders had the road in excellent condition, nothing remained to annoy we hardy birders except a brisk breeze at 20° F that stayed with us the remainder of the day.

Many stops were made from the Int. R.R. bridge to the falls to observe the many small, medium or large groups of all of the afore mentioned winter ducks. At one turnout, 3 Common and 2 Red-breasted female Mergansers close to the shore gave excellent study of these two confusing (to some) species. The Red-throated Loon was not found at the old shipyard. The number of Ring-billed Gulls in the upper river was slightly higher than of Herring. There was an occasional Black-backed Gull.

The rapids at the upper side of the Canadian weir were so devoid of ducks or gulls that we did not even stop but those waters from the old scow to the brink of the Horseshoe Falls were teeming with ducks and gulls. Here, the percentage of gulls was reversed with many more Herring than Ring-billed. Both mallards and blacks(greater) were in good numbers here, along with 6 Gadwall, 6 Pintail, 41 Am. Wedgeon and an Iceland Gull.

The gorge between the falls and the Rainbow Bridge offered very few birds; a pair of Hooded Mergansers and another Iceland Gull (which could have been the same one seen in the upper rapids) were of interest.

No white gulls were among the many circling the gorge between the power plants. Here, the only Red-tailed Hawk of the day rose from low in the gorge and winged its way upward over the cliff and away over Niagara Univ.

The lower river from Lewiston to Niagara on the Lake had 1000s of Herring and Ring-b. Gulls and about 10 Blackbacked; 15 Redheads (first for the day); 1000 + each of Canvasback, Greater Scaup and Oldsquaw were scattered throughout this area. The eiders were not found at the junction of the



Niagara River and Lake Ontario.

Near Ft. George, one or possibly two Mockingbirds were found in multi-flora rose hedges.

Returning via Grand Island , on Stony Pt. Rd., we saw 5 Short-eared Owls perched in low bushes in the field (about 150 ft. from the highway).

The day was beautiful, the birding interesting, so-

The question: - Go or Not to go?                      Answer: - GO.

Alice and Edward Ulrich

B.O.S. Wildlife Sanctuary Program 1967

The B.O.S. Wildlife Sanctuary gives members and friends an opportunity to study various aspects of bird life all year around. However, in spite of posting signs, the area is also used by the occasional hunter in the fall and winter seasons. Also this winter the pond was used by skaters. To reduce such misuse of the refuge, and to improve the area for all wildlife at the same time, the following projects are planned for this season.

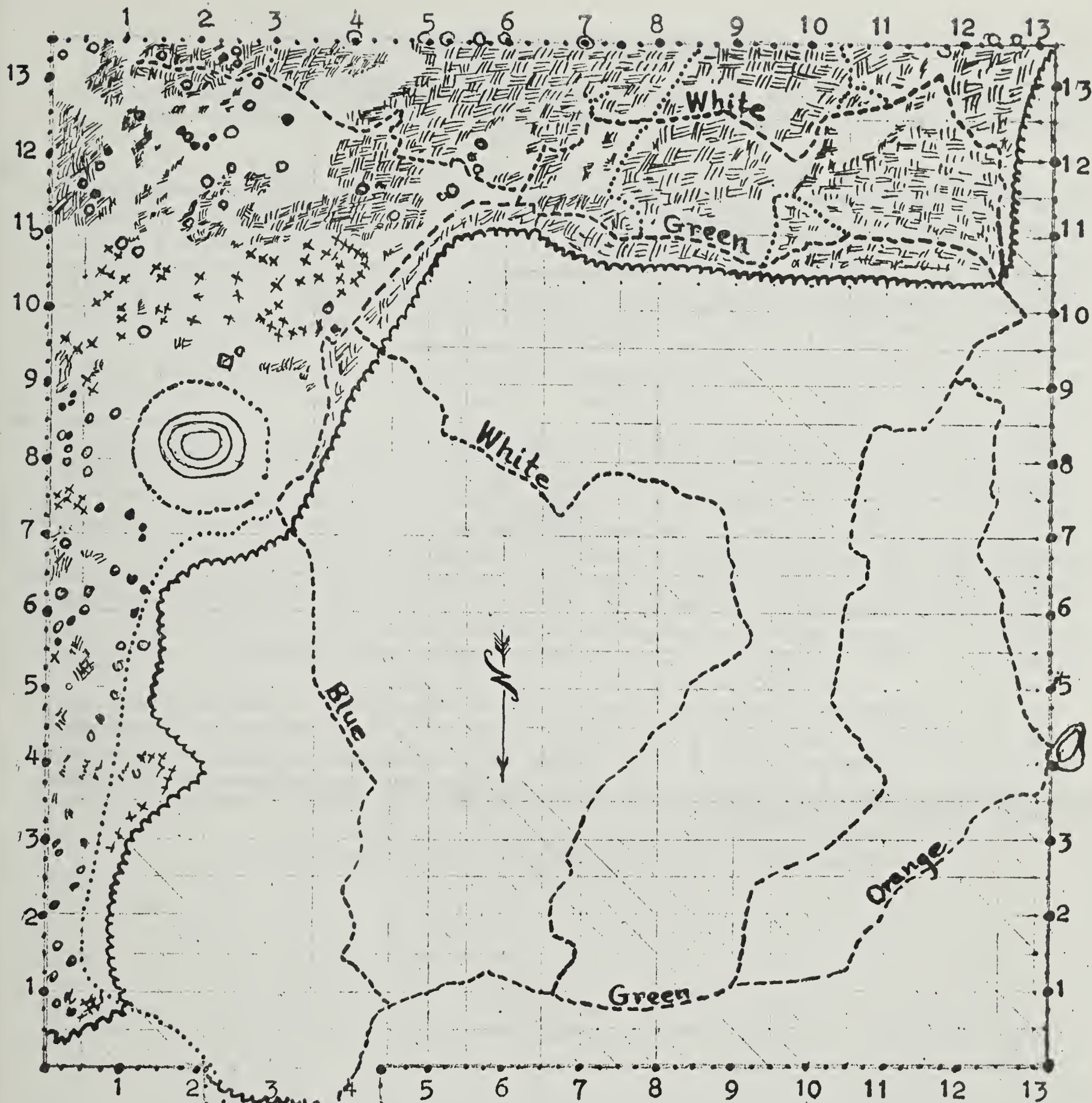
Fertilizer Applications. - This is a continuation of the program of the past two years to improve our plantings of evergreens and multi-flora roses. The latter will need help until they are filled out sufficiently to replace the snow fence as a barrier against the undesirable trespassers to the pond. Most of the evergreens need more growth to give the desired cover for the birds. (Fertilizer will be spread as soon as the frost is out of the ground.)

Lamb's Quarters Planting. - A strip about twenty feet wide and about half way around the pond is to be plowed and planted with Lamb's Quarters (Chenopodium album) seeds harvested for this purpose. This is to replace the Goldenrod and Queen Anne's Lace which has been the primary cover in this area since the pond was put in. The Lamb's Quarters should attract more wintering birds. If you find some unused seeds in your trips around, please gather them and add them to our collection. We will increase the planting area to accommodate all your seeds too. (This planting will be carried out as soon as the ground can be worked with a rotatiller.)

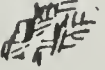

Fence And Trail Repairs. - This is a perennial project to combat the ravages of weather. Breaks in the fence wire due to rusting and/or fallen trees, etc., always occur each year. Also the trails in the woods become littered with fallen branches. They are tripping hazards on the paths but when moved make excellent trail borders. Your help is solicited to improve the trail borders. This will eliminate most tripping hazards on the trails. Also, bring a small pair of pruning shears along to remove the new growth on the side of the trails. This is the big job during the summer. And, if you are really ambitious, bring a "whipper-snapper scythe" to cut the grass and weeds on the open paths. This task would be eliminated if enough members walked on all the trails to wear the plants down.

The committee will put up new plastic tape markers on the boundary fence





# B.O.S. WILDLIFE REFUGE

- |                |           |           |   |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| boundary fence | • • • • • | thicket   |  |
| pond fence     | - - - - - | tree      | o o   |
| marked trail   | - - - - - | evergreen | x x   |
| unmarked path  | • • • • • | pond      |  |
| woods boundary | ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ |           |   |



which will indicate the coordinate markings as shown in the Sanctuary map (see Vol. 32, No. 3, March 1966, page 38 for further map explanation.)

Brush Piles.- Hunters use several spots along our fence line to enter and cross the Sanctuary. Brush piles along the fence line can very effectively plug most of these openings on the south, west and north boundary lines. When properly constructed, the brush piles should also attract more small wildlife and birds. Plenty of fallen trees, branches and brush cuttings should be available to provide all the material necessary to build all the brush piles we want to plan. (This project can be worked on all year.)

Nesting Survey. - As in the past this is our major project and we solicit every member to participate. Although last year's survey covered ninety nests, we failed to locate nests of several prominent species, such as Downy Woodpecker, Chickadee, Grackle, Ovenbird, etc., and we found only a fraction of the nests of other species, including Red-eyed Vireo, Field Sparrow, Towhee, Woodcock, etc. Greater success can be achieved by better coverage. We would like to have a minimum of two surveys every week, starting in May and continuing through September. Although the early morning observations are usually most productive, data obtained in the late afternoon are just as valuable. For example, additional data on nests under surveillance will always make the survey more meaningful. In the past data on many nests were often so incomplete that final status was often uncertain.

The procedure for locating nests and the method of recording data on each nest will be the same as used last year. We will be glad to show anyone how to locate any spot in the refuge by the coordinate system indicated on the map. Just let us know; we will gladly take any member or group on a trip around the Sanctuary.

(Harriette and Walt Klabunde, Sanctuary Committee)

#### PLANT SPECIMENS NEEDED FOR BOTANY SUPPLEMENT

Charles A. Zenkert, Research Associate in Botany at the Buffalo Museum of Science, is preparing a Supplement to his Flora of the Niagara Frontier Region (Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Vol. 16, 1934). Mr. Zenkert wants this Supplement to reflect as many pertinent changes and additions to the plant life of the Niagara Floral Area (within an approximate radius of fifty miles of Buffalo, N.Y.) as possible. These additions would involve species of vascular plants new to the Floral Area and new localities for unusual known species. He recommends, therefore, that during the forthcoming growing season, field botanists and others interested in the vegetation of the region attempt to obtain plant specimens accompanied by full data that will contribute toward this work. Such specimens should be brought in or sent to the Museum marked to Mr. Zenkert's attention.



THE 1965 NESTING SEASON AT THE AXTELLS' - PART I

By Harold H. Axtell

This is the third annual report on observations of nesting and closely associated activities of the birds on a tract of approximately two acres planted and developed primarily for attracting birds. This tract is on Rose Hill Road, in Ontario about three miles west of the upper end of the Niagara River. The main characteristics of its habitats were described in the report of the 1963 season (Prothonotary, Vol. 30, No. 3, March 1964, p. 34). Almost daily observations permitted few nests to escape detection, but circumstances enabled more data to be gathered on some nestings than on others.

Tree Swallow (Northwest Pair). May 1, a male found our northwest bird house in early mid-morning. In less than an hour a female also appeared, flew about the bird house, looked in the hole scores of times, and finally entered. The two stayed around until mid-afternoon. Once there were 3 males besides the female. May 2, at 7:45 A.M. and after, we saw the female make about 8 trips into the house carrying a piece of grass each time. The pair was around all day. May 5, a Downy Woodpecker was enlarging the hole in the bird house. The Swallows appeared to have abandoned it and acted as if they had adopted the west bird house in the east section. I nailed a piece of aluminum with a 1½-inch hole over the enlarged hole, hoping it would discourage the Woodpecker, which it did. May 9, the female is again carrying grass to northwest house. May 16, the pair copulated a great deal yesterday and today. May 23, incubation has commenced. May 31, I checked number of eggs for the first time - there are 7. I had to wait until female left nest by her own accord, because when I lifted roof she did not fly even when I touched her - she only crouched lower on eggs. June 10, adults are carrying food to nest. June 19, the nest contains 7 fully-feathered young, of which only one still retains 1 or 2 tufts of down on the crown. The box is swarming with tens of thousands of mites. The few thousand that got on me at this and other times apparently remained less than about three hours, because after about this length of time the itching and tickling subsided. June 24, a young one kept its head out of the entrance hole most of the time and was fed frequently. June 26, the young left nest between noon and mid-afternoon; we did not see them again.

Tree Swallow (East Pair). June 20, there was frequent commotion today among Tree Swallows when a second pair appeared and showed interest in the easternmost bird house in the east section. June 21, it seems fairly certain that the new pair is adopting the easternmost Tree Swallow house. June 24, at least 7 adult Tree Swallows - 5 males and 2 females - were involved in some of today's flurries of excitement. June 26-27, pair copulating frequently. July 7, 4 eggs in east bird house. July 14, 2 eggs were freshly hatched at 8:00 A.M.; the third had hatched by 8:00 P.M. July 15, the 4th (last) egg hatched before 8:10 A.M. July 21, at 8:00 P.M. the nestlings had short pin feathers up to about 2mm. long. July 27, the 4 young are fully feathered with a few scattered tufts of down. The tail extends about five-eighths of an inch beyond the upper tail coverts. July 30, a young one's head was projecting from nest hole at this A.M. for first time. Aug. 1, heads of one or two young visible most of time today. Sometimes one perched with feet on outer edge of hole and acted about ready to fly. Aug. 2, the young were still in nest at 8:30 A.M. but had left



before 6:45 P.M., and the entire family had left the area. We did not see them again.

Barn Swallow. May 1, one flew through our porch twice. May 2, one flew through our porch about eight times. May 15, the pair have been flying through the porch several times daily, but had shown no great interest in a nest site. Yesterday they spent a good deal of time around Held's barn next door. Last night I removed their last year's (1964) nest from the nest shelf under our porch ceiling. Following this, at their first visit this morning they immediately showed great interest in their last year's site; this afternoon they were copulating on this nest shelf. May 16, started nest-building on last year's site. May 23, nest is finished. May 25, the pair visit their completed nest between one and several times an hour. The two usually spend the night at the nest. Tonight one bird is roosting in the nest in incubating position (but with no eggs), while the other is perched on the rim facing inward. May 26, laid an egg. May 27, laid 2nd egg. May 28, 3rd egg. May 29, 4th egg. May 30, laid a 5th egg and started incubating. May 31, laid a 6th egg. Male and female alternate incubating, but sometimes both go away together. The female is much more shy than the male, not permitting so close an approach when on nest. June 14, 4 of the 6 eggs hatched. June 15, the remaining 2 eggs hatched. July 3, the 6 young left the nest one at a time, the 1st leaving about 8:45 A.M., the last about 11:00 A.M. After the first one left, the parents did not feed any of the young either in or out of the nest until all had left. They then went away. July 4, since the young did not return to nest I removed it this A.M. There were few mites. Adults flew through porch several times. Once one perched on emptied nest shelf and called excitedly. The young were on tall shrubs and saplings about 600 ft. to the east. July 5, two adults perched on nest shelter together and took turns squatting where nest had been, calling excitedly. July 8, presumably the same pair of Barn Swallows started a new nest early this A.M. on the same shelf as their first nesting. July 9, the Swallows worked at nest-building about half the time throughout the day. Tonight they are roosting on another shelf across the porch. July 10, still building. July 14, there were 2 eggs at 8:15 A.M. and still only 2 at 8:30 A.M. The adults appeared to be incubating nearly all the time all day. July 15, a 3rd egg was laid before 7:15 A.M. Adults still incubating. July 16, a 4th egg was laid in A.M. July 17, a 5th egg. July 29, an egg hatched. July 30, a 2nd egg hatched before 9:00 A.M. A 3rd egg hatched between 9:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. July 31, a 4th egg hatched. August 2, the 5th (last) egg hatched. August 6, the 5 young could be heard calling while being fed and sometimes between feedings. August 7, for the first time the beaks of the nestlings rested on the rim of the nest between feedings. August 16, all 5 young were out of the nest but still on floor of nest shelter, which provides more room than the nest. August 18, 2 of the young flew away between 7:20 and 8:20 A.M. The other 3 were still there at dusk. August 19, the 3rd and 4th young left nest shelter early in A.M., leaving the smallest one in the shelter alone for over 2 hours during which time the parents frequently hovered near it, occasionally perching by it, but never feeding it, and frequently feeding three of the others which were on wires about 30 feet away. Finally it was the feeding sounds of the others that apparently lured it away from the nest at 10:25 A.M. The 5 young perched in the open on the wires even throughout a hard rainstorm until 7:10 P.M. when they went to roost several feet apart on various branches about 45 to 50 feet up in a 60foot silver maple whose trunk was 50 feet from their nest. August 20, the young spent morning in trees where they roosted last night. The rest of the day, always together,



they were within 250 feet of the roosting tree. They are spending the night again in the same part of the same tree as last night. August 25, the young are flying around catching their own food.

Catbird (Pinery Catbird). May 9, a number of Catbirds migrated in last night, though others had preceded them by several days. Some responded immediately to our tossing of raisins, and in other ways indicated they were here last year. May 16, today for the first time we saw a Catbird on a nest which we have been noting for nearly a week, 3 feet up in a clump of 6 closely-planted Norway spruces 7 feet high in the pinery. May 18, the male flew against Rhodes' picture window and was killed. May 20, looking into nest for first time, I found it to contain 4 eggs which the widowed female is still incubating. May 31, 3 of the 4 eggs hatched, one before 8:00 A.M., the other 2 in late morning. June 11, 2 of the 3 young had left the nest before we arrived at 6:00 P.M., and the last one fluttered out as I worked through the conifers toward it, but was still about 3 to 4 feet away. I saw one of the young about 2 hours later, 20 feet from the nest on a tamarack branch. June 21, the widow is still very busy feeding her fledglings, which are in the pinery and adjacent hedges. July 7, all the adult Catbirds are still feeding their nearly full-grown young, some of which also feed themselves. July 18, all adult Catbirds are still feeding their young, which are full grown. July 22, some of the adults have stopped feeding their young during the past few days, although at least 1 or 2 are still caring for them.

Catbird (Mr. and Mrs. West). (Mr. West is our only Catbird this year whose individual identity we can distinguish with complete certainty. We recognize him to be the same bird as the "Mr. West" of 1963 and 1964. He looks like others of his kind, but he is by far the tamest and most trusting summer bird we have, and when he wants some of the raisins that we always carry, he follows us very much more closely and persistently than any other Catbird. All our Catbirds learn to accept our raisins to feed their young, but Mr. West is the only one who also carries them to feed to his mate. He does this from the early courting days and continues throughout the period of incubation. These traits give him many specific habits and mannerisms which quickly differentiate him with certainty from all the others.) May 21, just starting to build a nest 12 feet up in a 15-foot Tartarian honeysuckle in the west hedge. May 22, Mrs. West was carrying a piece of nest material and testing various possible nest sites in west hedge; after about 2 minutes she dropped it and stopped. May 23, Mrs. West is working on the nest referred to on May 21 as just started; it is now well advanced. May 25, since the male Pinery Catbird killed itself against a picture window on May 18, Mr. and Mrs. West have taken over all the territory of the other pair and have been building a nest only 42 feet from that of the female Pinery Catbird, who is still incubating 4 eggs and whose presence seems to be completely ignored at all times by the Wests. May 26, found a Catbird freshly killed by car on Rose Hill Road. It is apparently Mrs. West, because during several minutes I saw no sign of her even though Mr. West, with whom she has been keeping almost constant company, was present; and also because on two occasions when, as is typical of him, he carried a raisin to the vicinity of the nest, no mate came to receive it, as she had invariably been accustomed to do. May 29, a Catbird that I could not identify individually, which was with Mr. West in the pinery, was badly injured and could not fly; at about the same time, I found several Catbird body feathers freshly scattered on low branches of a small pine. This bird was not seen again;



it presumably died of its injuries, or was (again-?) caught by a predator. It seems likely that it may have been a newly-found mate of Mr. West's which he soon lost as the result of one or more attacks by a predator - probably a cat - soon after he adopted her. June 11, Mr. West was seen to carry 2 raisins to a branch of a dead spruce where another adult came and was fed the raisins - this would appear to be his third successive mate this season. For several minutes thereafter Mr. West engaged constantly in rapid fluttering of the wings. June 13, I found the nest,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet up in a 6-foot Scotch pine in the densest thicket of them in the pinery. It contains 4 eggs. It is 23 feet north of the Pinery Catbird's nest from which the 3 young departed June 11. June 18, several or many times a day Mr. West comes to us for raisins that we toss to him, and he carries away one or two to a dead spruce branch 12 or 15 feet from his incubating mate who flies from the nest to him and receives the raisins. June 21, 3 of the 4 eggs hatched. June 22, the last egg hatched. June 26, nestlings have long pin feathers. June 27, young still have pin feathers. Mr. West has always been careful to take raisins of just the right size to feed his nestlings. July 2, young are fully feathered, very alert, and nearly ready to leave nest. July 3, all 4 left nest this A.M.; the last one was perched on rim of nest facing outward at 9:00 A.M.

Catbird (Mr. and Mrs. North). May 30, I found a Catbird's nest with 4 eggs 6 feet up in thicket of gray dogwood 8 feet high, 5 feet east of north-east corner of east lawn. June 12, at noon all 4 eggs had hatched, though one of the young was only projecting from one end of an egg. A little later the eggshell was gone. June 23, while I was slowly making my way through the dense thicket, I was still 3 or 4 feet from the nest when the very excited calling of one of the parents apparently caused the 4 young to scramble from the nest, even though the young could not have seen me, and I did not shake the nest. They could not fly well, and although 1 or 2 went through the thicket in a generally horizontal direction, the others fluttered at an angle downward. July 2, I saw a young Catbird, presumably from this brood, fly against our kitchen window and die almost instantly.

Brown Thrasher. May 1, a pair is building a nest in a new brush pile containing many evergreen branches. May 3, the pair has stopped building in the brush pile, but the birds are together nearly all the time. June 12, the Thrasher is incubating on a nest 8 feet up in an extremely dense 12-foot mock orange 50 feet north by east of our porch in the dense north hedge. June 16, the secretiveness of these birds about their nest is almost incredible. The bush containing the nest is at the very edge of a lawn, so that we pass within 40 feet of it many times daily, yet we seldom see the Thrashers, and not much oftener in the vicinity of the nest than elsewhere. The male rarely sings, and when he does, it is several hundred feet away from the nest. June 26, the 2 or 3 young left the nest. July 5, the fledglings are extremely difficult to find. We saw one today; its tail appears nearly half grown. Sept. 9, found an adult dead beside Rose Hill Road, apparently killed by a car.

Robin (Mr. and Mrs. E). April 17, this pair was found lining a nest 4 feet up in a discarded Christmas tree - a dense 6-foot Scotch pine - placed upright against the east brush pile. April 21, nest contains one egg. April 22, this evening the female was incubating. May 1, nest contains 5 eggs. May 5, still 5 eggs at dusk. May 6, all 5 eggs hatched. May 8, Mr. E. acquired a 2nd mate (Molly), thereby becoming a bigamist. May 11, three



young are in the nest. Mr. E. is helping feed them. May 20, the 3 young left the nest today. May 22, Mr. E is still helping feed the fledgling young. May 23, Mrs. E is building a nest 7 feet up at top of trunk of wild apple tree in thicket 80 feet east of previous nest. May 30, both Mr. and Mrs. E are feeding the fledglings, and in addition Mrs. E seems to be incubating an egg she laid today. May 31, Mrs. E laid a 2nd egg. All 3 young were following Mrs. E; they also often pick up their own food. June 1, laid a 3rd egg. June 2, laid 4th egg. June 7, (see Molly). June 8, at 6:30 P.M. Mrs. E appeared to be incubating, but after flushing her I looked into her nest and found it empty. After scolding me excitedly for about 4 or 5 minutes as usual, she returned to the empty nest and resumed an incubating position. At 7:40 P.M. I again approached the nest and again she flew off, scolded for 3 or 4 minutes, returned to the empty nest, placed her beak inside well below the rim for about 6 or 7 seconds as if looking or perhaps intending to turn the eggs, and again settled into an incubating position. When I returned at 8:40 and 8:50 she was not on the nest, and I did not see her in the vicinity. I do not know what took the eggs - I think a Crow or a raccoon would be the best guess.

Robin (Molly - Mrs. M of previous years). May 1, Molly, always completely unmistakable, both because of diagnostic color markings and because she is the most fearless, bold, and aggressive Robin of either sex I have ever known, topping the peck-order of all local Robins and eager to prove it, and clearly demanding - not timidly begging like all the other birds - that we toss raisins to her, Molly returned today. This is the fourth year we have known her. I found a Robin's egg on ground in east section, undoubtedly laid by Molly. May 2, Molly is defending a territory very much as a male does. Yesterday and today she has been attacking and attempting to drive away other female Robins, and has been flying to and alighting near males and following them if they retreated from her approach, whenever these other Robins came near our east section or east lawn. Most but not all of these relationships have been with Mr. and Mrs. E. On one occasion she attacked Mrs. E at the rate of several times a minute, and Mrs. E only dodged, not defending herself or fighting back until after about 15 or 20 minutes of this, when she then fought with Molly for one or two minutes, after which we did not see Molly attack her again. Mr. E only sat near his nest - about 40 feet from the fighting - and seemed to ignore it. May 8, Molly has acquired a mate, Mr. E, who already has another mate with a nest and young in the northeast corner of the territory that Molly has been defending, and which is also the territory largely claimed by Mr. E. Only once today did I see Mr. E paying attention to Mrs. E or her nest. That was when I scared Mrs. E from her nest, causing her to scold excitedly, whereupon Mr. E came and lit a few feet from the nest and hopped still closer to it. He stayed only about half a minute, then flew back to Molly, whom he follows back and forth, acting as lookout for her during her nest building activities. Molly is lining a nest 30 feet up in a crotch of a 50-foot silver maple at east edge of east lawn, about 285 feet west of Mrs. E's nest. On May 1 we saw her hunting nest sites in this tree, and she spent the most time in this particular crotch, seeming to favor it. She and Mr. E copulated several times. May 9, Molly is still building lining of nest. She and Mr. E again copulated several times. He continues to follow her around like a typical devoted male Robin and ignores Mrs. E and her nest with young. May 16, 4 eggs in nest. Sometimes when a Robin other than Mr. E comes within about 100 feet, Molly flies directly at it from her nest, drives it away and immediately returns to incubating her eggs. May 20, nest empty, the 4 eggs presumably taken by an unknown predator,



most likely a raccoon or a Crow. May 22, I watched Molly looking for a nest site for about 2 minutes. Later she was carrying a few stalks of nest-type material, but finally dropped them, apparently intentionally. Mr. E was with her part of the time. May 23, Molly is building a nest 4 feet up in the dense middle of a 9-ft. hawthorn 100 ft. east of previous nest. Mr. E now distributes his time surprisingly equitably among the three tasks of accompanying each of the two females, both of which are currently nest-building, and feeding Mrs. E's fledglings. May 26, Molly's new nest contains one egg, laid today. May 27, Molly laid a 2nd egg and started incubating. May 28, laid a third egg. As always during the nesting season, Molly comes very many times a day for raisins that we toss to her. June 7, at 8:30 p.m. one of Molly's eggs had just hatched, the hatchling still lying on about a 20% piece of the eggshell, the inside of which was still wet, as was also the hatchling.

Mr. E is responsive to the alarm calls of both his mates. Today when I flushed Mrs. E from her nest, Mr. E came and joined in the scolding for about 10 seconds, then flew to the nest and perched on the rim facing the eggs until Mrs. E returned. Within the next half hour, Mr. E twice responded similarly by flying close to Molly and her nest when she scolded as I approached. (Mr. E is unmistakably identifiable by a large and conspicuous patch of exposed gray feather-bases on the right side of his breast where some feathers have apparently been lost.) June 8, about 7:00 p.m., when Molly came to us for raisins, I asked Rachel to keep her occupied with raisins while I checked nest contents. As I approached, Mr. E flew from the nest. A 2nd egg hatched. At 8:55 p.m. Mr. E flew in and lit several yards from Molly's nest, holding a very small worm in his beak. He emitted a short series of soft chirps, whereupon Molly flew from her nest and Mr. E immediately flew to the nest with his worm. June 9, Molly's 3rd (last) egg hatched. June 9-15, both Molly and Mr. E industriously fed their 3 young regularly throughout this period. June 17, the young have well-developed pin feathers and already heap above the level of the rim of the nest. June 19, the young are fully feathered. June 20, the young have now lost all their tufts of down. All have very black heads - almost devoid of other markings - blacker than any other juv. Robins I have ever seen. (Mr. E is a strikingly black-headed, richly-colored Robin, and Molly's head is so extensively black that experienced birders find it difficult to believe that she is not a male.) Mr. E has been absent most of the time during the past few days, coming to feed the nestlings only a few times a day. June 21, 2 of the 3 young left the nest. June 22, the last young one left the nest. July 5, Molly feeds 2 of her practically full-grown young, and Mr. E has been feeding the third. July 7, Mr. E has almost stopped feeding his one young, but Molly still feeds her 2 nearly as much as ever. July 10, Mr. E did not feed his young Robin after July 7; for several days he has been singing again. During the past 2 days he and Molly have been together a great deal. Molly is still feeding her 2 young, but less often. July 11, the first day that Molly apparently did not feed her young. Molly and Mr. E are keeping very close company again. Many times today we saw them together, and several times when Molly flew Mr. E quickly followed. For some weeks we have been seeing both birds many times daily, but not consistently together until about 3 days ago. Late summer, presumably this recurrence of courtship came too late in this pair's 1965 mating cycle; at least, it did not reach the stage of nest-building, and Mr. E's renewed interest in Molly cooled and disappeared.

Robin (Porch Linden Robins). May 13, this new pair has started a nest 13 ft. up in the 36-ft. little-leaf linden beside the porch, in crotch



against trunk. May 14, nest looks from below as if finished. May 17, female started incubating 3 eggs. May 18, laid a 4th egg. May 29, one egg had hatched before 6:00 p.m. May 30, a 2nd egg hatched. May 31, a 3rd egg hatched. June 1, the 4th (last) egg hatched. June 11, the young of this very excitable pair were apparently scared out of the nest while a noisy power mower was being operated underneath the nest tree this evening. July 7, for the first time, the adults did not feed their young today. (It is easy for us to know about the reduction and cessation of the feeding of young by most of our pairs of Robins and Catbirds because these parent birds learn to come to us for raisins that we toss them, and as long as they are feeding their young they carry raisins away to them; when they stop feeding their young they stop carrying away raisins. One Catbird carries them to his mate, but mate-feeding is readily observable.)

Robin (West Robins). May 5, we found a recently-completed but empty Robin's nest 4½ ft. up in a 7-ft. Norway spruce at edge of a closely-planted group of seven such spruces in middle of pinery. This nest was not used further. May 15, a nest under construction 4½ ft. up in a 7-ft. arbor vitae at west edge of pinery. June 1, one of the 3 eggs hatched. June 2, the 2 remaining eggs hatched. June 9, the feathers on the nestlings are partly expanded beyond ends of sheaths, but bare spots are still conspicuous. June 11, the sheaths have broken and the 3 young are fully feathered. June 14, one of the young left the nest between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. It could fly well; I saw it fly at about a 40-degree angle upward for 75 ft. into a tall maple. June 15, the remaining 2 young left the nest and could fly very well.

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#### NOTICE

Since the compilation of Bird Counts has sometimes been held up and made unnecessarily difficult because the report on a territory (sometimes more than one) was mailed in late, future compilers will set a definite date by which all reports must be in if they are to be included in the final count.

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#### PROGRAMS - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

April 26 - Meeting preceded by dinner at 6:30 sharp in the Buffalo Museum of Science at which John Bull will be guest of honor. John Bull is the author of Birds of New York City Region and has been selected by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs as editor of a new Birds of New York State. Please send dinner reservations to K. Praemassing, 87 Linden Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214 by April 17. Price is \$5.00. If you can't attend the dinner, please try to attend the meeting anyway. Dr. Stephen Eaton will speak on "Learning from T.V. Tower Kills."

May 10 - Richard Freitag will show movies of shorebirds taken in this area.

May 24 - Program by the Research Committee

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

April 21 - B.O.S. Sanctuary at dusk for Woodcock. Meet at the sanctuary, Love Road, Grand Island at 7:00 P.M. Leaders, Marie and Margaret Wendling (632-6625).

May 6-7 - Annual Pymatuning Spring Weekend. Leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Stumm of the Buffalo Audubon Society.

May 21 - May Bird Count. For assignment of territory please contact the leader, Richard Freitag (893-9486).

May 27 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Whimbrels. Leaders, Paul Benham and Daniel Salisbury. Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 7:00 A.M.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301.

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DINNER RESERVATION COUPON

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for me for B.O.S. Dinner at \$5.00 each. Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Dinner is Wednesday, April 26, at 6:30 sharp, in the Buffalo Museum of Science.

My guests will be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_



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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

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Number 4

## THE MONTH

Temperature during March was near normal (0.6 degrees below), but the precipitation was only 1.2 inches, which 2 inches below normal. (Data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) Near the beginning of the month and again just past the middle, there was up to 6 or 8 inches maximum depth of snow in the vicinity of Buffalo;; at other times in the same area the ground was mostly bare.

During the first nine days, a very few migrant birds trickled in, but the first well-marked migration movement occurred on the 10th. The following day, the 11th, produced a major influx. From then on, through the rest of the month, most days brought additional migrants in varying numbers. Rarely in this area have there been so many migration days during three weeks in March. Reports suggest that the 27th was a particularly good flight day.

Toward the end of the month, it was apparent that seasonal developments were several days early. This was indicated not only by the earlier-than-usual dates on which American toads and leopard frogs first began singing, and by the growth of certain vegetation. Near Fort Erie, on the 26th, elderberry shoots appeared above the soil and Tartarian honeysuckle buds expanded, showing green areas, and many silver maple flowers of both sexes, which were not out on the 27th, came into blossom on the 28th.

Readers should refer to the Noteworthy Records for particulars on interesting records such as Barnacle Goose, Golden Eagle, and unusually large counts of Blue Geese. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.



NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year  
 F - Indicates first record for the migration  
 L - Indicates last record for the migration  
 (f) - Indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B. O. S., 1965), has been received and places in the permanent files of the B. O. S.

Common Loon	Mar.	28	1 Upper Niagara River, Ont.,	Andrle, Byron
Red-necked Grebe	"	20	1 Dunkirk	Elderkin et al
	"	21	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Lunardini
	"	23	1 Chippawa, Ont.	Benham
Horned Grebe	"	11F	1 Upper Niagara River, Ont.,	Lunardini
	"	11F	1 Jordan, Ont.	Benham
	"	20	3 Dunkirk	Elderkin et al
Pied-billed Grebe	"	10F	1 Fillmore	Burtons
	"	28	1 Tonawanda GMA	Benham
	"	28, 29	1, 3 South Park, Bfflo.	Kikta
Great Blue Heron	"	4	1 Belmont	Burtons
	"	15	1 Thorold, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	25	3 Oak Orchard GMA	Rybezynski et al
B-cr. Night Heron	"	13	2 Athol Springs	Bourbe
	"	31	6 Niagara Falls	Klabundes
*Whistling Swan	"	11F	4 Oak Orchard GMA	Emersons
	"	19	6 Upper Niagara River	Klabundes
	"	20	121 Celeron	Elderkin, Hiller
	"	20	1091 Lakewood	Elderkin, Hiller
	"	26	225 Over Riverside	Elderkin
	(first and maximum; 17 reports for the month)			
Canada Goose	"	2F	9 Lakeview	Bourne
	"	10	18 Over Springbrook	Danner
	"	10	8 Town of Batavia	Buckland
	"	11	15 Over Hanover	Grzybowski
	"	11	6 Kiantone	Gulvin
	"	11	54 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	18	10000 Iroquois NWR	Klabundes et al
	"	23	10000 Iroquois NWR	Freitags
	"	29	20900 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski,
				Hammond
	"	29	11000 Yates Twp.	Grzybowski,
				Hammond
	"	30	20000 Oak Orchard GMA	Hess et al
<u>Barnacle Goose</u>	"	29	1 Yates Twp.	Hammond,
				Grzybowski
*Snow Goose	"	12-25	1 Iroquois NWR	Benham
	"	12F	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	12F	1 Tonawanda GMA	McKales
	"	18	1 Shelby Sinks	Rybczynski,
				Grzybowski et al
	"	19	1 Iroquois NWR	McKales



*Snow Goose (cont.)	Mar. 23, 25	1, 1	Shelby Sinks	Grzybowski et al
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Ulrich et al
"	27	11	Shelby Sinks	Salisbury, Dorst
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Ulrich et al
"	29	2	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Hammond
"	31	9	Tonawanda GMA	Benham, Salisbury
*Blue Goose	" 11F	1	Tonawanda GMA	Emersons
"	12	3	Iroquois NWR	Benham
"	12	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	12	1	Tonawanda GMA	McKales
"	25	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Benham
"	27	59	Shelby Sinks	Salisbury, Dorst
"	29	2	Shadigee	Grzybowski, Hammond
"	30	1	Yates Twp.	Hess
"	31	40	Tonawanda GMA	Salisbury et al
Mallard	" 12	14	Caneadea	Burtens
Black Duck	" 12	85	Caneadea	Burtens
Gadwall	" 11	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Lunardini
"	20	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Elderkin, Hiller
"	23	2	Chippawa, Ont.	Lunardini
"	23	5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rybczynski, Grzybowski
"	24	1	Bertie, Ont.	Grzybowski
"	25	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Hess et al
"	27	7	Dunkirk	Grzybowski et al
"	31	9	Beaver Island State Pk.	Grzybowski
Pintail	" 9	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	14	13	St. Catharines, Ont.	Dorst
"	26	2	Clarence	Ulrich et al
"	29	1800	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Hammond
*Green-w. Teal	" 26F	6	Newstead	Ulrichs
"	27	3	Caneadea	Burtens
"	27	1	Dunkirk	Grzybowski
"	27	6	Oak Orchard GMA	Dorst, Salisbury
"	27	22	Riverside	Elderkin, Pillsbury
*Blue-w. Teal	" 27F	6	Riverside	Elderkin, Pillsbury
"	29	6	Iroquois GMA	Grzybowski, Hammond
"	29	2	Marilla	Danner, Schafer
American Widgeon	" 17F	1	Belfast	Burtens
"	27	22	Riverside	Elderkin, Pillsbury
"	27	30	Caneadea	Burtens
"	29	100	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski, Hammond
*Shoveler	" 27F	1	Shelby Sinks	Salisbury, Dorst
"	27F	3	Riverside	Elderkin, Pillsbury
"	31	2	Oak Orchard GMA	Benham
Wood Duck	" 20F	1	Belmont	Burtens
"	26	2	Riverside	Elderkin
"	27	1	East Eden Pond	Bourne
"	27	2	Caneadea	Burtens
Redhead	" 20	15	Dunkirk Harbor	Elderkin, Hiller
"	24	26	Beaver Island State Pk.	Ulrich, Cumiskey
Ring-necked Duck	" 11	2	Upper Niagara River, Ont.	Lunardini
"	19	6	Upper Niagara River, Ont.	Klabundes
"	22	2	Lancaster	Rybczynski, Kikta
"	27	5	Caneadea	Burtens
"	27	43	Riverside	Elderkin, Pillsbury

Lesser Scaup	Mar.	29	4	Oak Orchard GMA	Ulrich et al
	"	30	100	Buffalo Harbor	Danner, Schafer
Common Goldeneye	"	4	4	Fillmore	Burtons
Bufflehead	"	2	2	Belmont	Burtons
King Eider	"	5	8	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	11, 26	7, 1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Benham
	"	29	1	Fort Niagara	Grzybowski, Hammond
White-w. Scoter	"	12	10	Fort Niagara	Thill
	"	25	14	Wilson	Rybczynski et al
Common Scoter	"	28	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
Ruddy Duck	"	15	1	Buffalo	Kikta
	"	26	2	Celoron	Elderkin
Hooded Merganser	"	11	2	Queenston, Ont.	Lunardini
	"	11	6	Kiantone	Gulvin
	"	26	16	Riverside	Elderkin, Hiller
	"	27	8	East Eden Pond	Bourne
Common Merganser	"	2	3	Belmont	Burtons
*Turkey Vulture	"	27F	3	over Hanover	Grzybowski et al
	"	27F	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Dorst, Salisbury
	"	28	1	Newstead	Benham
	"	30	10	Oak Orchard Area	Freitag et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	4	1	Angelica	Burtons
	"	26	1	Sturgeon Point	Andrles
	"	27	12	over Hanover	Grzybowski et al
	"	31	11	over Hanover	Grzybowski
Cooper's Hawk	"	1	1	Wellsville	Burtons
	"	4	1	Smithville, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	7	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
	"	10	1	over Portland	grzybowski
	"	26	1	Sturgeon Point	Andrles
	"	27	12	over Hanover	Grzybowski et al
	"	30	2	Oak Orchard area	Freitag et al
	"	31	1	over Hanover	Grzybowski
Goshawk	"	9	1	Eden	Bourne
Red-tailed Hawk	"	10	14	over Hanover	Grzybowski
	"	12	13	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	26	14	over lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	26	40	over Irving	Andrles
	"	27	81	over Hanover	Grzybowski et al
	"	31	46	over Hanover	Grzybowski
Red-should. Hawk	"	4F	1	over Hamburg	Bourne
	"	10	3	over Hanover	Grzybowski
	"	12	2	Iroquois NWR	Benham
	"	26	33	over Irving	Andrles
	"	27	185	over Hanover	Grzybowski et al
	"	31	48	over Hanover	grzybowski
Rough-leg. Hawk	"	10	2	over Hanover	Grzybowski
	"	19	2	Indian Falls	Hess, Thill
	"	26	2	over lancaster	Grzybowski
	"	27	6	over Hanover	Grzybowski
*Golden Eagle	"	18	1	Iroquois NWR	Salisbury, Rybczynski
	(immature)				Dorst et al
	"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Salisbury, Dorst
	(immature)				
Bald Eagle	"	19	1	Navy Island, Ont.	Klabundes



Bald Eagle (cont.)	Mar. 25	1 Navy Island, Ont. (sub-adult)	Rosches, Crones
"	26	1 Navy Island, Ont. (Immature)	Benham, Thill
"	31	1 Iroquois NWR (Immature)	Benham, Salisbury
Marsh Hawk	" 11	8 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	26	3 over Irving	Andrles
"	27	18 over Hanover	Grzybowski et al
"	28	4 Somerset	Benhams
"	31	11 over Hanover	Grzybowski
*Pigeon Hawk	" 28	1 Lakeview	Bourne
"	30	1 Yates Twp.	Hess, Mitchell et al
Sparrow Hawk	" 27	34 over Hanover	Grzybowski et al
"	31	12 over Hanover	Grzybowski
Ruffed Grouse	" 11	1 Long Beach, Ont.	Thill
American Coot	" 11	20 Dunkirk Harbor	Burger, Brownstein
"	27, 31	25, 10 Dunkirk Harbor	Grzybowski
Killdeer	" 10F	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
"	10F	2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	10F	1 Langford	Bourne
"	10F	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	10F	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
"	10F	2 Belfast	Burtions
"	10-31	1-4 Springbrook	Danner
"	11	3 Kiantone	Gulvin
"	11	6 Sq. Shore Lake Erie	Grzybowski
"	11	4 Ontario Plain	Klabundes
"	11	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
"	11	2 Transit	Burtions
"	11, 25	10, 90 over Lakeview	Axtell
*Amer. Woodcock	" 10F	5 Cheektowaga	Rybczynski, Kikta
"	16, 17	1, 1 Belmont	Burtions
"	25, 26	6, 8 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
*Common Snipe	" 21F	1 Cheektowaga	Rybczynski
"	25	1 Eden	Bourne
"	26, 29	1, 1 Belmont	Burtions
*Greater Yellowlegs	" 31F	1 Tonawanda GMA	Benham, Salisbury
*Pectoral Sandpiper	" 29F	4 Iroquois NWR	Ulrich et al
Glaucous Gull	" 4	2 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells
"	4	1 Jordon, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Bonaparte's Gull	" 31	3 Tonawanda GMA	Benham, Salisbury
Mourning Dove	" 11	15 over Evans	Grzybowski
"	18	15 Cambria	Ulrich et al
"	25	107 over Lakeview	Axtells
Barn Owl	" 11	1 Wilson Cemetery	Klabundes
"	26	1 Hamburg	Bourne
"	26	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	29	1 Wilson	Grzybowski, Hammond
Snowy Owl	" 6	1 Lakeview	Bourne
"	5, 24	1, 1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klabundes
"	"	1 Town of Tonawanda	Hammond, Mitchell
Long-eared Owl	" 4, 24	1, 1 Youngstown	Klabundes
"	11	6 Long Beach, Ont.	Thill
Short-eared Owl	" 4, 31	1-8 Lyndonville	Smiths

Vol. 33, No. 4 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Short-eared Owl	Mar. 19,24	6,6	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klabundes
"	23	3	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Lunardini
"	23	8	Grand Island	Benham
"	25	5	Grand Island	Rosches, Crones
Saw-whet Owl	" 4	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	4	1	Louth, Ont.	Salisbury et al
"	14	1	Hamburg	Bourne
"	18-20	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Yellow-sh. Flicker	" 11F	1	over Irving	Grzybowski
"	12	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	13	1	Elma	Danner, Schafer
Pileated Woodpecker	" 14	1	Springbrook	Danner
"	25	1	Alabama	Grzybowski et al
"	26	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Dorst
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	" 2	1	Hamburg	Bourne
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	" 7	1	Frewsburg	Gulvin et al
"	11	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Emersons
"	17	1	Batavia	Buckland
"	18	2	Tonawanda GMA	Benham et al
"	25	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Klabundes
*Yellow-b. Sapsucker	" 29F	1	Silver Creek	Benham
*Eastern Phoebe	" 25F	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	27	3	Dunkirk	Grzybowski
"	31	10	Alfred	Klingensmith
Horned Lark	" 1	10	Newstead	Benham
( <u>E. a. Alpestris</u> )	" 2-30	2-4	Elma	Danner, Schafer
"	10,20,27	2-4	Springbrook	Danner
"	18	1	Newfane	Ulrich et al
"	19	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
*Tree Swallow	" 27F	20	Oak Orchard GMA	Salisbury
"	27F	4	Sheridan	Grzybowski et al
"	29	1	Langford	Bourne
Tufted Titmouse	" 1-23	1	Lewiston (f)	Klabundes
"	9	1	Springbrook (f)	Danner
Red-br. Nuthatch	" 5	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Klabundes
*Winter Wren	" 28	1	Athol Springs	Bourne
"	31	1	Dunkirk	Grzybowski
Mockingbird	" 4	1	Louth, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Robin	" 2F	3	Wellsville	Burtions
"	5	4	Eggertsville	McKales
"	10	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
"	10	3	Lyndonville	Smiths
"	10	2	Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtells
"	11	25	over Lakeview	Axtell
"	11	400	South Shore, Lake Erie	Grzybowski
"	27	1850	South Shore, Lake Erie	Grzybowski
Eastern Bluebird	" 7F	1	Hamburg	Bourne
"	17	3	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
"	26	1	Springbrook	Danner
"	27	3	Point Gratiot	Grzybowski et al
"	29	1	Hamburg	Bourne
"	29	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
"	30	2	Alfred	Klingensmith
"	31	2	Wellsville	Burtions



Golden-cr. Kinglet	Mar.	31F	19	Buffalo	Rybczynski
*Water Pipit	"	12F	20	Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	22	3	Alfred	Burtens
	"	27	3	over Hanover	Grzybowski
	"	30	49	Hamburg	Grzybowski
Northern Shrike	"	11,18	1,1	Ontario Plain	Klabundes
	"	112	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	12	1	Oak Orchard Area	McKales
	"	18	2	Tonawanda GMA	Benham et al
	"	22	1	Phillips Creek	Burtens
*Loggerhead Shrike	"	19	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Hess, Thill
	"	22	1	Tonawanda GMA	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	25	1	Oak Orchard GMA	Benham et al
	"	26	1	Elma	Kikta
	"	29	1	Newstead	Grzybowski, Hammond
	"	29	2	Yates Twp.	Grzybowski, Hammond
	"	30	1	Orchard Park	Grzybowski
	"	30	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell, Hammond
*Pine Warbler	"	27	1	Point Gratiot	Grzybowski, et al
Eastern Meadowlark	"	10F	2	Belfast	Burtens
	"	10F	2	Hanover	Grzybowski
	"	11	15	Kiantone	Gulvin
	"	11	8	over Lakeview	Axtell
	"	11	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	11	20	South Shore, Lake Erie	Grzybowski, Brownstei
	"	11	2	Ontario Plain	Klabundes
	"	27	150	South Shore, Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
*Western Meadowlark	"	31	1	Sheridan	Grzybowski
Red-wing. Blackbird	"	3F	1	Franklinville	Grzybowski
	"	4	22	South Park, Buffalo	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	5	2	Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	5	10	Transit	Burtens
	"	11	3500	South Shore, Lake Erie	Grzybowski, Brownstei
	"	27	5200	South Shore, Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
Rusty Blackbird	"	3,14	1,1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	10	2	Alma	Burtens
	"	11	1	Belmont (f)	Burtens
	"	24F	25	Hamburg	Bourne
	"	25	17	Middleport	Ulrichs et al
	"	30	300	Yates	Mitchell, Hammond
Common Grackle	"	10F	1	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	10F	1	Salamanca	Grzybowski
	"	10F	12	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	10-31	30-50	Springbrook	Danner
	"	11	500	South Shore, Lake Erie	Grzybowski
	"	27	3300	South Shore, Lake Erie	Grzybowski
Brown-h. Cowbird	"	4F	17	South Park, Buffalo	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	9	6	Kiantone	Gulvin
	"	11	150	South Shore, Lake Erie	Grzybowski, Brownstei
	"	27	6300	South Shore, Lake Erie	Grzybowski et al
Evening Grosbeck	"	4	4	Jamestown	Elderkin
Purple Finch	"	1-31	2	Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	3	3	Wellsville	Burtens
	"	4	1	Brentwood	Burtens
*Common Redpoll	"	15	7	Orchard Park	Bourne
Pine Siskin	"	19	3	St. Bonaventure	Grzybowski

Pine Siskin (cont.)	Mar.	26	5 Hamburg	Bourne
*Rufous-s. Towhee	"	31F	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
Lark Bunting	"	1-31	1 Belmont (f)	Burtens
*Savannah Sparrow	Mar.	23F	1 Alabama	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
	"	27	2 Hanover	Grzybowski et al
Vesper Sparrow	"	27F	2 Evans	Grzybowski
	"	27F	2 Eden	Bourne
	"	27F	3 Fillmore	Burtens
	"	31	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	31	1 Elma	Danner
Oregon Junco	"	1-31	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
White-thr. Sparrow.	"	1-31	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	1-31	2 Alfred (f)	Klingensmith
*Fox Sparrow	"	28F, 31	1, 1 Rose Hill Road, Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	31	1 Buffalo	Rybczynski
	"	31	2 Dunkirk	Grzybowski
Swamp Sparrow	"	1-31	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtells
	"	29	2 Belmont	Burtens
Lapland Longspur	"	18	22 Ontario Plain	Ulrich et al
			(maximum count for month; eight other reports)	
Snow Bunting	"	1-21	60-250 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. (f)	Axtells
	"	1	350 Newstead	Benham
	"	4	200 Cherry Hill, Ont.	Lunardini
	"	4	1000 Smithville, Ont.	Benham
	"	18	500 E. Shelby	Klabundes
	"	18	600 Youngstown	Klabundes
	"	18	300 Ontario Plain	Ulrich et al
	"	20	200 Elma	Danner

Species and subspecies previously recorded:

117

Additional species and subspecies recorded in this issue:

25

Total for 1967:

142



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

B. O. S. FIELD TRIP TO IROQUOIS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

March 18, 1967

The B. O. S. field trip of March 18, which saw a record low temperature of 5 degrees, produced the most exciting observation many of us had ever experienced.

Headed south on Sour Springs Road at 9:30 A. M., we had just driven from the woods near the refuge manager's home. A large, dark bird of prey, flying northwest in front of us at a range of 100 yards and at an altitude of 40 to 50 feet, brought us to a panic stop. The bird disappeared in five seconds beyond the woods, leaving some doubt as to its identity. It circled and returned, flying over us at an altitude of some 100 feet--it was unmistakably an immature Golden Eagle. The huge wing span with sharply defined white windows on the underside and the light tail with a dark terminal band were evident as the eagle circled again in the sunlight. We also saw gold on the nape as the bird turned to disappear beyond the trees.

At about 10:15 A. M., we were observing a flock of an estimated ten-thousand Canada Geese and one Snow Goose, situated in a field west of Route 63 in Shelby. About four hundred feet above the flock was the Golden Eagle, under attack from two Red-tailed Hawks, which dove at it, nearly striking it. The relative sizes were remarkable, as the wing span of a Red-tail is only a little more than half that of the eagle. The eagle flew lower over the geese, which began to show great agitation. First all the heads came up, and then, within a few seconds, the entire ten-thousand goose flock took to the air and wheeled off in all directions. The eagle flew south without making any pass at geese or hawks that we could see.

Twenty minutes later we sighted the eagle and one Red-tail again over the Woolcottville Sinks. We drove into the Indian Reservation to better observe the encounter. Here the eagle found soaring conditions to its liking and circled in the bright sun, making two "cuffs" at the Red-tail en route. The eagle gained altitude more rapidly than the hawk, finally reaching a height where the Red-tail was invisible to my naked eye. The eagle set its wings, glided swiftly to the northeast, aided by a light, quartering northwest wind, and soon disappeared, leaving humble birders behind.

Paul Benham

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REMINDER

Each leader of a B.O.S. field trip held during 1967 is requested to submit a short write-up about the trip suitable for publication in the Prothonotary. Such a write-up should be sent to the Editor within a week of the trip.

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## THE 1965 NESTING SEASON AT THE AXTELLS, PART II

Starling. The pair which started nesting in the site of previous years- a natural hole 20 ft. up in a 50-ft. dead elm- was dispossessed by a red squirrel that moved into the cavity.

Yellow Warbler (South Pair). May 15, Started building nest 4½ ft. up in 6-ft. Tartarian honeysuckle at edge of honeysuckle thicket in east section. May 20, The previous nest, which contained a Cowbird's egg, was abandoned and a new one is 40 ft. southwest of it, 5 ft. up in an 8-ft. Tartarian honeysuckle in a thicket of honeysuckle bushes. May 23, Warbler laid an egg at 7:20 a.m. At 9:20 a.m. there was also a Cowbird's egg, which I removed. May 24, nest has 2 Warbler eggs. May 25, 3 Warbler eggs. May 26, 4 Warbler eggs. May 27, laid a fifth egg and started incubating. June 6, 4 of the 5 eggs hatched. June 7, the fifth (last) egg hatched. June 13, the young are fully feathered but still have many downy feather-tips. June 14, young still in nest, but one wonders how the nestlings underneath get fed without pushing some of those on top of them out of the nest, which was not only very high-heaping full, but even the rim was mostly covered by the nestlings. June 15, about 2 of the young left the nest. One was heard calling about 15 ft. away from nest and 6 or 7 ft. above ground. June 16, the rest of the young left the nest. By evening the young were scattered in thickets varying from about 15 to 100 ft. from the nest. June 17, I saw one of the young about 25 ft. from the nest. It was alert, wary, and active. When I approached to 5 or 6 ft. from it, it flew away chipping. July 14, a full-grown young Yellow Warbler was killed by a car on Rose Hill Rd. at our border.

Yellow Warbler (North Pair). June 9, I found the nest of this second pair about 110ft. north by west of the other pair's nest. It is 5 ft. up in a 6-ft. Tartarian honeysuckle in a shrubby thicket. It contains 4 Warbler's eggs. June 11, 3 of the 4 eggs hatched. June 12, 4th (last) egg hatched. June 21, the young left the nest.

House Sparrow. May 9, a nest in bird house on linden stub at entrance to driveway contains 3 eggs. June 11, the young left the nest.

Common Grackle (Two Pairs). Apr. 10, a pair was looking at potential nest sites. Apr. 11, one carried nest material to dense part, 6 ft. below top of 38-ft. Norway spruce in a group of such spruces by west side of house. Apr. 17, another pair is building a nest 17 ft. up in a 35-ft. spruce in same group.

The Grackles hid these two inaccessible nests so well, and the adults were so shy and secretive that it was impractical to attempt to follow their nest histories. It was noticed, however, that shortly after a red squirrel appeared and foraged through these spruces for their cones each morning, the Grackles were no longer present. The squirrel presumably destroyed the nest contents, which at the time must have consisted of well-incubated eggs or small nestlings.

Brown-headed Cowbird. Eggs of this species were found in nests of Yellow-Warbler and Song Sparrow. All eggs were prevented from hatching either by the nest owner or by human interference. All these eggs are arbitrarily considered one set in our statistical calculations.

Purple Finch. May 26, a pair started to build a nest 4½ ft. up in the very dense growth of the 7½-ft. Picea Abies Ohlendorfi (a small, dense, slow-grow-



ing variety of Norway spruce). May 27, construction is well advanced. May 30, laid an egg. May 31, laid a 2nd. egg while she was on nest from 7:00 to 8:15 a.m. She has been associating with a brown male. Today for first time a red male appeared. A few days later another brown male showed up. All three males remained for two or three weeks. June 1, laid 3rd. egg. June 2, laid 4th egg. (No adult was on nest after dark.) June 3, laid 5th egg. From about sunset on into night an adult was on the nest, but not during about an hour and a half immediately before sunset. June 7, the incubating adult does not sit so "close" on the nest as most incubating passerines, but flies off when a person passes several yards away. June 16, all 5 eggs hatched. June 26, the 5 young have feathers extending beyond the ends of the sheaths for a distance several times the length of the short sheaths. The adults visit nest only once in a while to feed young. In late dusk no adult was on the nest. June 30, two young left the nest this a.m., but stayed in the tree a few hours before flying away. About sunset 2 of the remaining 3 were perched on rim of nest facing outward, but by dark they were back in the nest. July 1, the last 3 left nest and flew away. By the time of departure, the rim and outside of the nest were almost coated with the droppings which had not been carried away.

Song Sparrow (Northeast Song Sparrows). May 7, carrying nest material into grass about base of 4-ft. mock orange in northeast thicket. May 22, nest contained 2 Song Sparrow eggs and 1 Cowbird egg--I removed the latter. I then surrounded the nest with a 4-ft. diameter circle of chicken wire fencing for protection. May 26, one egg hatched. May 27, the other egg hatched. June 6, both young left nest either yesterday or today. June 7, I heard one or both young giving hunger calls. (Relationship of the following to the foregoing not definitely known, but probably the same pair.) June 27, a pair was building a nest 15 inches up in a dense part of a multiflora rose near southeast corner of rose hedge, about 90 ft. south of the foregoing nest. This nest was deserted before eggs were laid.

Song Sparrow (Mid-East Song Sparrows). May 22, I found this pair's nest 70 ft. west of the Northeast Song Sparrow's nest. It is on ground in a grassy spot among small scattered shrubs of cherry Eleagnus. It is roofed over by prostrate weedstalks, but is still rather exposed. It contained one Cowbird egg, which I removed, and 5 Song Sparrow eggs. May 23, I placed a chicken wire fence in a 5-to6-ft. diameter circle around the nest. (A skunk lives in a hole only 25 ft. away.) May 29, 4 of the 5 eggs had hatched by 6:15 p.m. . May 30, The 5th (last) egg hatched. June 7, the 5 young appear freshly feathered. June 8, the 5 young are well-feathered, alert, more than filling the nest, and appear about ready to leave. June 9, the 5 young left the nest. The parents were scolding much of the time this evening. (Relationship of the following to the foregoing pair not known, but possibly the same pair.) July 10, there are young Song Sparrows just out of a nest in or near the east brush pile about 100 ft. east of the foregoing nest.

Song Sparrow (Pinery Song Sparrows). May 11, found nest with 3 eggs 15 inches up in 7-ft. Norway spruce in dense part of pinery. May 20, The above mentioned nest is deserted. An even earlier deserted nest, discovered today, was 1 ft. up in dense part of 5-ft. hemlock in clump of such hemlocks in pinery. A new nest, found today, containing 3 eggs of which one is a Cowbird's, is 15 inches up in a dense part of a 6-ft. Scotch pine where pines are planted about 3 ft. apart. May 21, two of the 3 eggs hatched. May 26, I removed the young Cowbird from the nest, leaving one young Song Sparrow and one un-



hatched Song Sparrow's egg. May 29, after about 1 or 2 hours of rain I found the nestling dead from unknown causes. It was well-fed, showed no external injuries, and both parents were scolding nearby while I was examining it. June 26, I found to my surprise that this pair must have started immediately to lay a new set of eggs in the same nest in which the nestling of the former brood died May 29. Today this nest held 5 young Song Sparrows with feathers developed, ready to leave in a day or two. June 27, the 5 young left the nest before 3:00 p.m. August 6, found a Song Sparrow's nest with four eggs 6 ft. up in a densely-branching (result of pruning) top of a 7½-ft. Scotch pine at edge of center lane in middle of pinery. During several visits I saw no bird on or near nest. August 7, an adult flushed from the nest every time I looked into it today from 6:45 a.m. on. Aug. 17, 3 of the 4 eggs hatched between 8:00 p.m. yesterday and 8:00 a.m. today. The remaining egg had not hatched by 8:00 p.m. August 18, the 4th (last) egg hatched before 8:15 a.m. August 26, young are fully feathered. Aug. 27, all young left nest in early morning. At 8:20 a.m. one, tail barely distinguishable, was perched about 16 inches from nest in same sapling.

Song Sparrow (East Pinery Song Sparrows). During May and early June, Song Sparrows on the territory of this pair had one or several successive nests which I could not find and which probably failed to fledge young. June 19, I found a nest with 3 eggs 3 ft. up in a 6-ft. Scotch pine planted May 15. June 20, a 4th egg was laid. June 21, a 5th egg was laid, and incubation started. July 2, 4 of the 5 eggs hatched, 3 in a.m., the 4th before 3:45 p.m. July 3, the 5th egg hatched between 8:30 p.m. yesterday and 9:00 a.m. July 7, the 5 young have small pin feathers. July 9, feather tips are just beginning to project from tips of many of the sheaths. July 11, the 5 nestlings have been fully feathered since early morning. July 13, the 5 young left nest between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.

Song Sparrow (Taxus Song Sparrows). I am almost certain that during May and early June this pair had one or more nests which I failed to find and which were probably unsuccessful in rearing young. June 19, today we often saw a pair of Song Sparrows going in and out of the Taxus (Japanese yew) thicket just a few yards from the porch steps. June 20, one of the birds was seen going into the thicket with a long, coarse, grass stalk, presumably early-stage nest material. June 26, I found the nest; it is 1 ft. up in a 4-ft. yew in the middle of the thicket of similar yews, very well concealed. It holds 4 eggs. July 9, the 4 eggs hatched before 7:00 a.m. July 17, the nestlings have a great deal of both feathering and pin feathers. July 20, the 4 young left the nest. Aug. 8, full-grown young still being fed, but not seen to be fed after this date. A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL SPECIES AND PAIRS came to obtain food for young in nests that were not on the study area and brought their fledglings to the study area where they subsequently spent a large part of their time. Among the families or individuals on which we made some notes were the following.

Hairy Woodpecker. During much of late June and early July a pair regularly carried bills full of suet away to the northwest. July 10, for the first time this year 2 or 3 juvenal Hairies came to our feeders, and 3 were regular attendants thereafter, usually with their parents.

Downy Woodpecker. May 31, for the first time this year, a Downy (male) carried suet away, flying generally southwestward. In early June, two pairs of Downies regularly carried suet away, one pair going northwest by west, the other pair west southwest. June 20, a practically full-grown juv. female



came to the suet with an adult - the first juvenal this year. June 24, a very sick adult male is around. June 25, it was dead on the porch. June 27, several fledglings have just been brought to the suet for the first time. July 5, 2 broods of Downies have been coming for the suet. One or more are at or near the feeders nearly all the time; once today there were 7 Downies at once.

Flicker. May 1, "Our tame female Flicker" returned for the third year we have known her. May 15, last night a Flicker slept in a Tree Swallow house (with a 5X5-inch floor) whose entrance it had enlarged. June 27, 3 fledglings, fresh from a nest across Rose Hill Rd., came with the "tame" female to our lawn for their first time. July 3, a young one was killed by a car on Rose Hill Rd. about 200 ft. to the north. July 8, "our" female Flicker was badly mangled this afternoon by a neighbor's German shepherd dog. We tried to take care of her, but she died July 12. This was the third year she had brought her fledglings here and spent most of the rest of each season with them on and about our lawn. From her first summer with us she was absurdly trusting, so that she was readily recognizable by the trust and fearlessness with which she and her families intimately shared our lawn with us. July 1, the children nest door brought us a fledgling Flicker that had been caught on their lawn by one of their dogs. It did not seem to be injured, but was very lean, apparently so weak from starvation that it was unable to fly. It is presumably one of the young that was being cared for by the adult female that was fatally injured by another dog three days before. The fledgling died July 15. Aug. 9, we see an adult male with 2 young almost daily. Aug. 12, an adult male and 3 young were feeding together on our east lawn.

Purple Martin. April 18, saw the first ones of the year locally. April 22, Erected for the first time a 16-room Martin house on our newly-bought "north section." A few Martins showed interest in it the first day. By early June, 11 compartments were occupied by nesting pairs. June 17, for the first time, I saw a Martin carrying food to the Martin house. July 27, The first (about 2 to 4) young left the nest. Aug. 15, all young have left the house. Aug 17, Martins were flying about, but we saw none go to the house. Sept. 2, daily recently, usually between about 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., numbers of Martins come and fly about the Martin house and finally perch on it. Today I saw as many as 70 flying about it and later over 50 perched on it at one time.

House Wren. May 9, one started adopting a bird house in the big spruces, so we plugged entrances to both houses there.

Robin (Mr. and Mrs. H). Apr. 3, Mr. H is back. This is at least his third year here. He has probably been back more than a week. Apr. 11, a Robin in Mr. H's territory (west and southwest of the house) was perching on a wire and carrying a load of grass in her bill. Apr. 17, Mrs. H. (we do not recognize her from a previous year) is building a well-advanced nest on a horizontal branch 11 ft. up in a 30-ft. Norway spruce - one of a group of similar spruces. A Grackle's nest is about 20 ft. away in another spruce. Apr. 20, Mrs. H has discontinued work on the foregoing nest, and has been carrying grass, apparently for one or two days to the top whorl of branches 6 ft. up in a 7½-ft. Scotch pine in the pinery. Because of insufficient support, however, most of the material fell through the branches to the ground. Apr. 24, Mrs. H is now building a new nest high in a maple in Held's year about 200 ft. south of the study area. May 23, a young one from this nest, scarcely able to fly, was under our big spruces. June 10, a female Robin, possibly Mrs. H, was killed by a car on Rose Hill Rd. Mr. H is still



feeding a nearly full-grown young one which spends its time in our south hedge, which is where Mr. H also does most of his foraging. July 17, Mr. H is still feeding young from a second brood that came to our place as soon as they left the nest whose location we did not know except that it was off our study area. Aug. 7, The past few days Mr. H has been carrying small food items to a different nest in one of the big maples about 150 ft. south of the study area, again in Held's back yard. Aug. 11, at least 3 young left this nest and came to our place.

Robin (Mr. Molly of 1963 and 1964). May 29, Molly's previous mate, easily identifiable by coloration and several individual mannerisms, came for the first time this year to get tossed raisins which he carried away far to the south southwest. May 31, the ex-Mr. Molly came many times from at least a quarter mile to the south southwest to get and carry away raisins that we tossed him. Twice Molly spotted him and chased him away.

Robin. May 16, there is a Robin's nest 17 ft. up in a 25-ft. balsam fir in Rhodes's back yard, 40 ft. from our northwest border. June 9, this pair has been feeding 3 nestlings for several days. June 10, the 3 young left the nest, and for the next few weeks they spent most of their time on the study area.

Baltimore Oriole. May 9, a male with a diagnostic song came back today for the third successive year in this vicinity. In 1963 it nested in a Lombardy poplar in our north hedge, in 1964 across Rose Hill Rd.. This year again it nested across Rose Hill Rd.. On July 2 it brought to our place a young one with tail about two-thirds grown. After that we saw Orioles with young several times daily.

Cardinal. July 27, this pair, which nested across Rose Hill Rd., has two nearly full-grown young Cardinals and a Cowbird that they brought here about a week ago and still feed. We continued to see the young Cardinals into September.

Goldfinch. Aug. 20, saw and heard a family of young out of nest - first this year.

Chipping Sparrow. Aug. 14, we see adults and full-grown young on the study area daily.

Still others that we especially conspicuous were families of Spotted Sandpiper, Cedar Waxwing (many families), Baltimore Oriole (an additional family), Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch (several families), Towhee, Field Sparrow, and still others that made somewhat less regular use of the study area.

SUMMARY. Twenty-four pairs of 12 species of birds are known to have nested and laid eggs on the two-acre study area in 1965. These 24 pairs laid at least 27 sets of eggs (all Cowbird eggs are arbitrarily counted as a single set). twenty-three nests, of 20 pairs, of 9 species successfully fledged a total of about 92 young (including conservative estimates of the number fledged in 4 of the nests). These same 20 successful pairs also had a total of at least 4 additional nests with eggs all of which were unsuccessful (from causes not definitely known, plus several nest which did not reach the point of containing eggs. In addition to the 20 successful pairs, 4 other pairs failed to fledge any young on the study area in 1965. Of these, the nesting failure



of the two pairs of Grackles and the onepair of Starlings can almost certainly be attributed to a red squirrel, and that of the Cowbirds was due in one case to a Yellow Warbler refusing to incubate a Cowbird's egg, and in other cases to human interference.

The largest number of nesting pairs on the two-acre study area was of Song Sparrows (at least 5 pairs), Robins (4 pairs), and Catbirds (3 pairs). The species rearing the largest number of young was Song Sparrow (at least 27 young from 7 successful nests).

Data concerning the eleven pairs of Purple Martins and their estimated 33 fledged young are not included in the above totals (the Martin house is 40 ft. off the study area).

COMMENTS. The following findings are especially unusual, and in some cases unique.

A pair of Catbirds set up a home territory in the middle of which a widowed female Catbird already had a nest of eggs from which she successfully reared 4 young 23 ft. from the nest of the other pair. The widow and her brood lived in complete harmony with the pair of Catbirds, the two families seeming to ignore each other.

Although the male of this pair was apparently made a widower twice after the other Catbird in his territory became widowed, the widower and widow ignored each other and did not join forces, the widower twice waiting for a non-nesting female with which to mate.

An unusually aggressive unmated female Robin (Molly) set up a territory where she drove away or fought other females and "courted" males by flying to within a few yards of them and conspicuously perching, loitering, or waling near or with them, and sometimes following them when they flew away, to repeat this behavior after alighting again.

In this way she seduced an already-mated male Robin who then also mated with her, whereby he became a bigamist who served both his mates and contributed to the care of both broods of offspring.

When a female Robin whose four eggs had disappeared was flushed from her nest twice, 70 minutes apart, she returned to her empty nest both times and resumed an incubating position.

A successful nesting of a pair of Purple Finches is apparently the first breeding record of this species in the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario. The nest site, only 4½ ft. above ground, is lower than I find recorded in the literature.

After the last nestling in a Song Sparrow's nest died of unknown causes, the adults must have commenced within one of two days laying another set of eggs in the same nest in which the tragedy had just occurred, because 29 days after the nestling died, another brood of 5 young Song Sparrows left the same nest.

"OPERATION BLUEBIRD"

WARREN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

TENTH REPORT - 1966

(The following report submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neel should be of interest to B.O.S. members since Warren County, Pennsylvania, is adjacent to Chautauqua County, New York.- Editor)

The results of the tenth year of "Operation Bluebird", while not as good as 1964 and 1965, did tie 1962 for third place honors in the "bluebird derby".

Approximately 145 boxes were under observation.

DATA - EASTERN BLUEBIRDS

First Nestings

<u>Pairs</u>	<u>Eggs</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Fledged</u>
94	409	301	286

Second Nestings

	<u>48</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>146</u>
Totals	142	607	455	432

DATA - TREE SWALLOWS

First Nestings

<u>Pairs</u>	<u>Eggs</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Fledged</u>
39	196	143	134

Second Nestings

	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	40	201	148	134

The weather during the month of May seems to be the most important factor in the successful fledging of young bluebirds. The weather during May, 1966 was particularly bad with snow, rain and cold weather most of the time.

The following comparative data with 1965 and 1964, both years having good weather during May, should be of interest.



## First Nesting - Bluebirds

	<u>#Pair</u>	<u>Eggs</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Fledged</u>
1966	94	409	301	286
1965	103	520	431	408
1964	97	448	394	357
Avg/Pair	1966	4.35	3.20	3.04
Avg/Pair	1965	5.05	4.19	3.96
Avg/Pair	1964	4.62	4.06	3.69

## Second Nesting - Bluebirds

	<u>#Pair</u>	<u>Eggs</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Fledged</u>
1966	48	198	154	146
1965	64	243	182	182
1964	80	337	283	263
Avg/Pair	1966	4.13	3.2	3.05
Avg/Pair	1965	3.8	2.85	2.86
Avg/Pair	1964	4.2	3.54	3.3

## Total Nestings- Bluebirds

	<u>#Pair</u>	<u>Eggs</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Fledged</u>
1966	142	607	455	432
1965	167	793	613	590
1964	177	785	677	620
Avg/Pair	1966	4.28	3.20	3.04
Avg/Pair	1965	4.56	3.67	3.52
Avg/Pair	1964	4.44	3.82	3.50

## Comparative Data 1966 with 1965, 1964

	<u>Total Pair</u>	<u>Total Eggs</u>	<u>Total Young</u>	<u>Total Fledged</u>
Percent 1966/1965	85	80	74	73
Percent 1966/1964	80	78	67	70
Percent Avg/Pair/Box				
1966/1965		94	87	87
1966/1964		94	84	87

The period of time covered by the first nestings is fluid. Generally speaking, Warren County bluebirds start nesting the end of April and have completed clutches of eggs by the end of the first week of May. In 1966 some bluebirds did not nest until late May or early June. This decreased the number of second nestings as follows:

1966 - 51% of the bluebirds nested twice  
1965 - 62% of the bluebirds nested twice  
1964 - 83% of the bluebirds nested twice

By contrast the tree swallows in Warren County do not nest until late May so that the 1966 tree swallow results compare favorably with 1965 and 1964 as follows:

	<u>#Pair</u>	<u>Eggs</u>	<u>Young</u>	<u>Fledged</u>
1966	40	201	148	134
1965	42	182	139	118
1964	52	290	226	218

Taking everything into consideration, 1966 was a fairly successful year for bluebirds. It possibly could be considered an average year.

The number of empty nesting boxes was 3.

The total production of bluebirds averaged 3.9 birds per box for the 145 boxes under observation.

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#### 1967 B.O.S. BREAKFAST AT TIMBER TRAILS

(Saturday, June 10, 8:30 - 9:30 A.M.)

The Bigelows have invited all members of the B.O.S. and their guests to attend this breakfast which will be held at their home in Eden, New York. Arrangements are being made by Kathryn Praemassing, Chairman, assisted by Alice Ulrich and Eugenia Praemassing. Price \$1.25.

Come prepared for some early morning birding along the trails of this wildlife sanctuary before and after breakfast. You're most welcome to prowl anytime after 4:00 a.m. A more formal walk will be conducted to the "drumming log" and "turkey spring" at 10:00 a.m. Those wishing to remain for a picnic at the Shale Creek Nature Center should bring lunches.

Directions: Driving south on Route 62 from Hamburg, continue through Eden beyond traffic light. Highway gradually curves right and a road marked "Sandrock" rises steeply up a hill to the left. Turn here and stay Sandrock for 1½ miles to Larkin Road, which suddenly appears as the third on the left off Sandrock. Bigelow mailbox and driveway will be to the left. Please park as far up the driveway and into the field as practical to make room for others. ( See also map, Prothonotary, Vol. 32, No. 4)



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

May 24 - Program by the Research Committee

June 10 - B.O.S. Pancake Breakfast at Mr. and Mrs. David Bigelow's. See page 66 for details.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

May 21 - May Bird Count. For assignment of territory please contact the leader, Richard Freitag (893-9486).

May 27 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Whimbrels. Leaders, Paul Benham and Daniel Salisbury. Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 7:00 A.M.

June 2-4 - Allegany Pilgrimage. For details please contact Mr. Lincoln Nutting, 1007 Bruce Lane, Grand Island, N.Y.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301.





# THE PROTHONOTARY

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BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
JUL 28 1967  
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Volume 33

May 1967

Number 5

## THE MONTH

April precipitation was 0.41 inches below normal. Only once, on the 24th, was there so much as an official "trace" of snow on the ground. The average temperature was 2.6 degrees above the mean. Except for the 30th, however, the last eight days were all below normal. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

Few months have supplied so many records of rarities as this one. The Eared Grebe collected on the Allegany River by Dr. Stephen Eaton is the first specimen collected in New York State as well as the first Eared Grebe recorded in a part of the Niagara Frontier Region or Western New York inland away from the Great Lakes and the Niagara River. The second record of House Finch for this region is of an adult male that came to the feeding station of Mrs. Csont where she trapped, banded, photographed, and released it. The sight record of Brewer's Blackbird was accompanied by an excellent verifying write-up by Bob Curry of Hamilton, Ontario. The record of Clay-colored Sparrow, in the same category of rarity as the above three, is supported by reliable additional observations of this species in nearby northwestern Pennsylvania this spring. Add to these the records of Cattle Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Barnacle Goose, and Laughing Gull, along with the continuing presence of the Lark Bunting, and April, 1967, becomes a very special month.

Some good flights of Broad-winged Hawks were noted, and there seems to be general agreement among observers that considerably more than the usual number of Turkey Vultures migrated over our area this spring. There were also more Snow and Blue Geese than in most years.

As for the total of 103,014 Canada Geese which represents the sum of all the separate reports turned in from the April Bird Count covering the present B.O.S. Study Area, there are reasons for being skeptical and for considering such a high number very improbable. Although one of our most experienced observers states that he has never before seen so many geese



on and flying over the portion of Oak Orchard which he covered, none-the-less, the Area total of 103,014 is not at all consistent with counts and estimates made in the same sections of high counts on days before and after the day of this census. It is well known that great masses of geese commonly fly from one of our sections to another, and could easily be counted two or more times by different observers, or even by the same observer in different parts of his own section.

Excessively high counts on one or two previous B.O.S. April Bird Counts may likewise be considered suspect. Perhaps in future April Bird Counts, more critical attention and emphasis could be placed on planning (1) more exact methods of goose counting and recording, and (2) subsequent analysis of these sectional reports, so that duplication and other sources of major error would be reduced. This should be fairly easy to arrange and would seem to be a necessary improvement. - Harold E. Inghel, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS.

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations.

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Data Guide of Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B. O. S., 1965), has been received and places in the permanent files of the B. O. S.

Common Loon	May 8, 11, 24	3, 1, 14	Cuba Lake	Burtons
	"	13	11 Over Irving	Lunardini
	"	14	10 Over Irving	Lunardini
	"	14, 18	2.5 Over Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	30	6 Point Abino, Ont.	Benham
Red-necked Grebe	"	8	26 Grimsby Beach, Ont.	Benham, Grzybowski
	"	8	5 Youngstown	Klabundes
	"	19	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	29	1 Youngstown	Klabundes
Horned Grebe	"	2	65 Riverside	Elderkin
	"	2	60 Cuba Lake	Burtons
	"	25	150 Cuba Lake	Burtons
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	"	30	1 Olean	Grzybowski, Eaton
			(specimen collected).	
Pied-billed Grebe	"	16	12 Cassadaga Lake	Elderkin
*D-cr. Cormorant	"	20	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Benham
	"	22	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Grzybowski et al
	"	23	4 Dunkirk Harbor	Andrles, Elderkin
*Green Heron	"	15F	1 Cheektowaga	Rybcynski, Kikta
	"	17	1 Springbrook	Danner
*Cattle Egret	"	16	1 Iroquois NWR	Klabundes et al.
*Y-cr. Night Heron	"	30	1 Five Corners	Burtons, Olmstead et al
B-cr. Night Heron	"	5	46 Niagara Falls	Benham
*American Bittern	"	8F	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	13	2 Oak Orchard OMA	Freitag
	"	13	1 Oak Orchard Swamp	Klabundes



Whistling Swan	April	1	30 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski
	"	2	30 Oak Orchard	Wendlings
	"	2	18 Tonawanda GMA	Freitag
	"	3	24 Tonawanda GMA	McKales
	"	8	22 Iroquois NWR	Mitchell, Morse
	"	16	21 Tonawanda GMA	McKales
	"	21	23 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
	"	22	14 Hanover	Rew, Rathbun
	"	24	18 Kinzua Reservoir	Elderkin
Brant	April	16	3 Sturgeon Point	Row, Ulrich et al
Barnacle Goose	"	1	1 Somerset	Grzybowski, Benham et al
Snow Goose	"	1	6 Iroquois NWR	Grzybowski et al
	"	1	10 Oak Orchard	Klabundes
	"	1, 2	6, 6 Tonawanda GMA	McKales
	"	3	2 Tonawanda GMA	Andrle, Byron
	"	8	3 Oak Orchard	McKales
	"	13	3 Oak Orchard	Klabundes
	"	13	3 Oak Orchard GMA	Freitag
	"	16	2 Oak Orchard	McKales
	"	23	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Curry
	"	23	6 Point Breeze (Orleans County)	Curry
Blue Goose	"	1	50 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
	"	1	3 Yates	Grzybowski et al
	"	1	23 Oak Orchard	Klabundes
	"	1, 2	28, 28 Tonawanda GMA	McKales
	"	2	1 Tonawanda GMA	Bourne
	"	3	2 Yates Twp.	Andrle, Byron
	"	8	1 Oak Orchard	McKales
	"	13	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Freitag
	"	13	1 Oak Orchard	Klabundes
	"	16	1 Oak Orchard	McKales
	"	23	1 Oak Orchard	Curry
	"	23	3 Point Breeze (Orleans County)	Curry
Gadwall	"	9	10 Riverside	Elderkin
	"	23	27 Dunkirk	Rew, Rathbun
	"	26	10 Riverside	Elderkin
*European Widgeon	"	29	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Benham et al
Shoveler	"	16	12 Iroquois NWR	Benham, Brownstein
	"	20	8 Oak Orchard	Freitag
	"	22	8 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
	"	23	6 Tonawanda GMA	Freitags
	"	29	5 North Collins	Bourne
Wood Duck	"	5	24 Iroquois NWR	Mitchell, Morse
Oldsquaw	"	24	20 Kinzua Reservoir	Elderkin
	"	24	11 Red House Lake	Elderkin
White-w. Scoter	"	24	18 Red House Lake	Elderkin
	"	24	6 Scio	Burtens
	"	24	10 Rodgers Marsh	Burtens, Olmstead
	"	24	100 Cuba Lake	Burtens
Surf Scoter	"	24	1 Scio	Burtens
	"	24	3 Cuba Lake	Burtens
	"	24	2 Rodgers Marsh	Burtens
Common Scoter	"	10	6 Athol Springs	Bourne

Vol. 33, No. 5 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Common Scoter	April	24	9	Kinzua Reservoir	Elderkin
(cont.)	"	24	3	Cuba Lake	Burtions
Ruddy Duck	"	24	3	Kinzua Reservoir	Elderkin
	"	24	16	Amity Lake	Burtions et al
Hooded Merganser	"	30	26	Westfield	Rew, Swanson
Turkey Vulture	"	1	13	Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
	"	15	37	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
	"	30	12	over Dunkirk & Pomfret Twps.	Andrle et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	14	25	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
	"	15	89	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
	"	30	96	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
	"	30	45	over Dunkirk & Pomfret Twps.	Andrle et al
Cooper's Hawk	"	1	1	Kinney Swamp	Burtions
	"	8	3	Louth Twp., Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	9	1	Belmont	Olmstead
	"	9	1	Springbrook	Danner, Schafer
	"	11	1	Belmont	Burtions
	"	14, 20, 29	1, 1, 1	Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	22	1	Delaware Pk. Bfflo.	Freitag
	"	23, 25, 28	1, 1, 1	Belmont	Burtions
	"	27	1	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
	"	30	3	Over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
Red-tailed Hawk	"	1	14	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
	"	1	5	over Yates	Grzybowski et al
	"	14	28	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
	"	15	78	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini et al
	"	29	8	Hamburg to Hanover	Clark
	"	30	5	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
	"	30	8	over Dunkirk & Pomfret Twps.	Andrle et al
Red-should. Hawk	"	1	2	over Yates	Grzybowski et al
	"	8	6	over Louth Twp. Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	15	4	over Hanover Twp.	Grzybowski et al
*Broad-wing. Hawk	"	14F	2	Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	15	1, 214	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini, Grzybowski et al
	"	29	860	Hamburg to Hanover	Clark
	"	30	1, 100	over Dunkirk and Pomfret Twps.	Andrle et al
Rough-leg. Hawk	"	15	2	over Hanover	Lunardini
	"	30	2	Foster's Lake	Burtions
	"	30	1	Allen Twp.	Burtions
Golden Eagle	"	8	2	over Louth Twp. Ont.	Grzybowski, Dorst
Bald Eagle	"	1	1	Oak Orchard	Klabundes
	"	15	4	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini et al
			(two immature, two adult)		
	"	20	1	Eden	Bourne
			(immature bird)		
Marsh Hawk	"	1	4	over Yates	Grzybowski et al
	"	8	5	over Louth Twp. Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	8	3	Ontario Plain	Klabundes
	"	13	7	Oak Orchard	Klabundes
	"	15	3	over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini et al
	"	23	2	over Cattaraugus Indian Reservation	Andrles



*Osprey	April	14E	1 Springbrook	Danner
	"	14F	2 over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
	"	15	3 over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini et al
	"	29	2 Hamburg to Hanover	Clark
	"	30	3 over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini
	"	30	7 over Dunkirk and Pomfret Twps.	Andrle et al
*Peregrine Falcon	"	15	1 over Hanover Twp.	Grzybowski et al
<u>Pigeon Hawk</u>	"	16	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Sparrow Hawk	"	1	5 over yates	Grzybowski et al
	"	8	5 over Louth Twp., Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	8	5 Ontario Plain	Klabundes
	"	15	11 over Hanover Twp.	Lunardini et al
Turkey	"	21	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
*Virginia Rail	"	23F	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Curry
*Sora	"	18F	1 East Eden Pond	Bourne
	"	22	1 Tonawanda GMA	Benham, Grzybowski
*Common Gallinule	"	19F	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	28	1 East Eden Pond	Bourne
American Coot	"	24	60 Cuba Lake	Burtens
*Upland Plover	"	13F	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	14	2 St. Catharines, Ont.	Dorst
*Spotted Sandpiper	"	16F	1 Tonawanda GMA	Benham
	"	21	2 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
	"	21	1 Grand Island	McKales
*Solitary Sandpiper	"	8F	1 Riverside Marsh	Richardson
	"	23	1 S. Stockton	Elderkin
	"	23	1 Langford	McKales
Greater Yellowlegs	"	2	1 Frewsburg	Kiderkin
*Lesser Yellowlegs	"	2F	4 Frewsburg	Elderkin
	"	16	5 Oak Orchard	Klabundes
	"	16	3 Akron	McKales
Pectoral Sandpiper	"	1	23 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
	"	6	100 Eden	Bourne
	"	13	144 Iroquois NWR	Benham
	"	15	243 Cherry Creek	Rew, Buck
	"	23	330 Tonawanda GMA	Freitags
*Dunlin	"	26F	1 Riverside	Elderkin
	"	30	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
Glaucous Gull	"	8	1 Jordan Harbor, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	24	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Iceland Gull	"	5	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
*Laughing Gull	"	20	1 Dunkirk Harbor	Benham
Bonaparte's Gull	"	23	3,500 Dunkirk Harbor	Andrles, Elderkin
	"	29	800 Point Gratiot	Clark
	"	30	650 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
Little Gull	"	23	3 Queenston, Ont. (two adult, one immature)	Curry
	"	27	1 Yacht Harbor, Ont.	Emersons
*Common Tern	"	8F	1 Lake Ontario, N.Y.	Klabundes
	"	15	3 Hamburg Town Park	Danner, Schafer
*Caspian Tern	"	10F	1 Cuba Lake	Burtens
	"	14	5 Dunkirk Harbor	Lunardini
	"	22	4 Dunkirk	Benham et al
	"	27	2 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	29	1 Point Gratiot	Clark

*Caspian Tern	April	30	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	McKales
(cont.)	"	30	2 Point Abino, Ont.	Benham
*Black Tern	"	30F	2 Port Colborne, Ont.	McKales
Barn Owl	"	5	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Snowy Owl	"	2	1 Buffalo	Kikta
	"	8L	1 Youngstown	Klabundes
Long-eared Owl	"	21	1 Chestnut Ridge Pk.	Bourne
Short-eared Owl	"	10	1 Lakeview	Bourne
Saw-whet Owl	"	22	1 Dunkirk	Grzybowski et al
			(specimen found dead on road)	
*Chimney Swift	"	23F	1 Evangola State Park	Andrles
	"	29, 30	1, 9 over Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	29	3 Dunkirk	McKales
	"	29	6 Akron	McKales
Yel.-b. Sapsucker	"	2	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Klabundes
*Gr. Crest Flycatch	"	30F	1 Point Gratiot	Clark
*Bank Swallow	"	22F	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski
	"	22F	1 Langford	Bourne
	"	24	1 Allegany State Park	Elderkin
*Rough-w. Swallow	"	6F.7	1, 1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	15	1 over Hanover	Grzybowski et al
	"	18	6 Water Valley	Bourne
*Barn Swallow	"	11F	4 Oak Orchard	Danner
*Barn Swallow	"	14	1 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Cliff Swallow	"	20F, 24	6, 4 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	23	4 Saunders Pond	Burtens
Purple Martin	"	3	2 Stannards	Burtens
	"	8	1 South Park, Buffalo	Rybczynski
Blue Jay	"	30	150 Point Gratiot	Clark
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-30	2 Athol Springs (f)	Csont
*House Wren	"	29F	1 Hanover	McKales
	"	30	1 Point Abino, Ont.	Benham
	"	30	1 Hanover	Axtells
*Carolina Wren	"	13	1 Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	13	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Booth
	"	14-30	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Several Observers
	"	21	1 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	29	1 Evans	McKales
	"	26, 28	1, 1 Eden	Bourne
Mockingbird	"	8	2 Jordan, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	10	1 Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	30	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
*Catbird	"	18	1 Buffalo	Rybczynski
Brown Thrasher	"	14-30	1-6 Rose Hill Rd. Ont.	Axtells
	"	15	2 Grand Island	Klabundes
Hermit Thrush	"	11	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	12	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
Bluebird	"		Eleven records of 17 birds for month	
*Blue-g. Gnatcatch	"	16	1 Evans	Rew et al
	"	26F	1 Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	27	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
	"	28	1 Alma	Burtens
*Ruby-cr. Kinglet	"	4F-30	3-7 Springbrook	Danner
	"	6	1 Buffalo	Rybczynski
Loggerhead Shrike	"	1	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Grzybowski et al
	"	1	1 Oak Orchard	Klabundes
	"	4	1 Appleton	Thill



Loggerhead Shrike	April	8	1 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski et al
	"	8	1 Ontario Plain	Klabundes
	"	13	1 North Collins	Bourne
*Solitary Vireo	"	23F	3 Sardinia	Andrle
	"	23F	1 Water Valley	Bourne
	"	29	1 Belmont	Burttons
*Bl.-&-w. Warbler	"	25F	1 Water Valley	Bourne
*Nashville Warbler	"	30F	1 Point, Gratiot	Clark
*Yellow Warbler	"	25F	1 Eden	Bourne
*Magnolia Warbler	"	30F	1 Point Gratiot	Clark
Myrtle Warbler	"	8F	2 Belmont	Burttons
	"	12	1 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	30	75 Point Gratiot	Clark
*Bl.-t. Gr. Warbler	"	28F	1 Cassadaga	Elderkin
	"	28F	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
	"	29	5 Sardinia	Andrle
Pine Warbler	"	23F	1 Water Valley	Bourne
*Palm Warbler	"	30F	1 Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	30F	5 Point Gratiot	Clark
*American Redstart	"	30F	1 Point Gratiot	Clark
*Boblink	"	30F	2 Point Gratiot	Clark
Western Meadowlark	"	4	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	15	1 Sheridan	Grzybowski et al
	"	15, 22	1, 1 Dunkirk	Grzybowski et al
*Brewer's Blackbird	"	23	1 Somerset	Curry
Evening Grosbeak	"	15	7 Belmont	Olmstead
	"	30	4 Scio	Burttons
*House Finch	"	29, 30	1 Athol Springs (f)	Csont
Pine Siskin	"	4	5 Water Valley	Bourne
	"	22	2 Hamburg	Bourne
Red Crossbill	"	11	1 Water Valley	Bourne
	"	16	1 Evans	Rew, Ulrich et al
Rufous-s. Towhee	"	5	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
Lark Bunting	"	1-30	1 Belmont (f)	Burttons et al
*Grasshopper Sparrow	"	21F	1 Orchard Park	Bourne
	"	25	1 Eden	Bourne
*Henslow's Sparrow	"	22F	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	29	1 Eden	Bourne
Tree Sparrow	"	28, 30	5, 2 Rose Hill Rd. Ont.	Axtells
	"	30	1 Belmont (f)	Olmstead
*Chipping Sparrow	"	3F	1 Amity Lake	Burttons
	"	14	2 Allegany	Grzybowski
*Clay-color. Sparrow	"	16	1 Allegany	Grzybowski
*Field Sparrow	"	2F	2 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
White-cr. Sparrow	"	8	1 Eggertsville	McKales
	"	30	1 Sheridan	Mitchell et al
White-thr. Sparrow	"	13	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Booth
	"	13	2 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	13	1 Buffalo	Kikta
Fox Sparrow	"	30	2 Hamburg	Andrles
	"	30	1 Eggertsville	McKales
Swamp Sparrow	"	1	1 Belmont	Burttons
	"	2, 3	1, 1 Buffalo	Kikta

Species, subspecies and hybrids previously recorded this year: 142  
 Additional species, subspecies and hybrids: 47  
 Total for 1967: 149

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIESReport of the April Bird CountDate: April 9, 1967Weather: Temperatures varying from 27 to 55 degrees in various territories, wind SE to SW-WNW-NE, sometimes gusty; cloudy, with intermittent showers in afternoon, later clearing.Species Recorded: Figures in parentheses indicate division numbers where the species was observed in three or fewer sections. Underlined common names indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 3rd Ed., Revised 1965) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.Loons - Mergansers

Common Loon	12	American Widgeon	465
Red-necked Grebe	30	Shoveler	15(5,2)
Horned Grebe	391	Wood Duck	105
Pied-billed Grebe	118	Redhead	196
D.-cr. Cormorant	2 (14)	Ring-necked Duck	483
Gr. Blue Heron	84	Canvasback	432
B.-cr. Night Heron	46 (9)	Greater Scaup	1,567
American Bittern	6	Lesser Scaup	1,429
Whistling Swan	132	Common Goldeneye	1,385
Canada Goose	103,014	Bufflehead	674
Snow Goose	6 (5,10)	Oldsquaw	617
Blue Goose	2 (5,10)	White-w. Scoter	306
Mallard	784	<u>Surf Scoter</u>	1 (4)
Black Duck	244	Common Scoter	1 (4)
Gadwall	27	Ruddy Duck	9
Pintail	1,601	Hooded Merganser	57
Green-w. Teal	68	Common Merganser	1,928
Blue-w. Teal	131	Red-br. Merganser	1,615

Vultures - Rails

Turkey Vulture	54	Bald Eagle	2(22)
Sharp-sh. Hawk	9	Osprey	2(21,26)
Cooper's Hawk	10	Sparrow Hawk	163
Red-tailed Hawk	127	Ruffed Grouse	35
Red-should. Hawk	14	Bobwhite	6(4)
Rough-legged Hawk	12	Ring-n. Pheasant	217
Marsh Hawk	49	Turkey	9(28,25)
		American Coot	110

Plovers - Terns

Killdeer	420	Glaucous Gull	1(6)
American Woodcock	34	Iceland Gull	1(6)
Common Snipe	187	Gr. Black-backed Gull	6
Greater Yellowlegs	13	Herring Gull	877
Lesser Yellowlegs	5	Ring-b. Gull	5,577



Pectoral Sandpiper	7(10)	Bonaparte's Gull	501
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Doves - Swallows

Mourning Dove	795	Yellow-b. Sapsucker	22
Barn Owl	1(14)	Hairy Woodpecker	127
Screech Owl	4	Downy Woodpecker	370
Great Horned Owl	9	Eastern Phoebe	275
Short-eared Owl	3(5,4)	Horned Lark	
Long-eared Owl	4(6,4)	( <u>E. a. alpestris</u> )	9
Belted Kingfisher	143	( <u>E. a. praticola</u> )	306
Yellow-sh. Flicker	908	Tree Swallow	326
Pileated Woodpecker	16	<u>Rough-w. Swallow</u>	1 (11)
Red-bellied Wdpr.	5	Barn Swallow	2 (7,25)
Red-headed Wdpr.	2(25,27)	Purple Martin	8

Jays-Warblers

Blue Jay	714	Brown Thrasher	5
Common Crow	3,237	Robin	10,809
Black-c. Chickadee	1,153	Hermit Thrush F	5
Tufted Titmouse	11	Eastern Bluebird	82
White-br. Nuthatch	311	Golden-cr. Kinglet	648
Red-br. Nuthatch	8	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	37
Brown Creeper	126	Water Pipit	33
House Wren	1(14)	Cedar Waxwing	145
Winter Wren	30	Loggerhead Shrike	3
Mockingbird	4(2,3,23)	Starling	34,450
Catbird	1	Myrtle Warbler	11

House Sparrow - Fringillidae

House Sparrow	5,840	Savannah Sparrow	87
Eastern Meadowlark	1,238	Vesper Sparrow	229
Red-w. Blackbird	41,750	Slate-col. Junco	3,297
Rusty Blackbird	779	Tree Sparrow	498
Common Grackle	33,531	Chipping Sparrow	30
Brown-h. Cowbird	5,637	Field Sparrow	90
Cardinal	471	Wh.-cr. Sparrow	2(19)
Evening Grosbeak	3(25)	Wh.-thr. Sparrow	38
Purple Finch	52	Fox Sparrow	49
Pine Siskin	12(14)	Swamp Sparrow	91
Red Crossbill	1(14)	Song Sparrow	4,103
American Goldfinch	301	<u>Lark Bunting</u>	1(28)
Rufous-s. Towhee	28		

GRAND TOTAL: 130 species, 288,325 individuals

Sectional Divisions and Observers: The following divisions are those defined by the map "Sectional Divisions of the Territory of the Buffalo Ornithological Society" (1956). The list gives the number of each division and the name of a place located in that division. Underlined names denote the individuals or group responsible for the coverage of each division.

1. Fonthill, Ontario - Not covered
2. Thorold, Ontario - Fred and Dan Salisbury
3. Wilson, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde
4. Middleport, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde  
Mr. and Mrs. John Lehrer
5. Oak Orchard, N.Y. - Mr. Harold Mitchell, Robert Steller, Richard Brownstein, Joanna Burger, Greg Hammond, John S. Morse, Wm. A. Smith and Family, George Smith, Dale Seamans, Richard Beebe
6. Port Maitland, Ont. - Joseph F. Thill, Dr. Robert Andriele, Paul Hess
7. Lowbanks, Ont. - Clarence Rote, Arlene Rote, Gertrude Ruggles, Sheldon Merritt
8. Fort Erie, Ont. - Mr. and Mrs. George Letchworth, Dr. V.J. Lunardini, R.L. Sommerville, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Axtell
9. Grand Island, N.Y. - Paul Benham
10. Akron, N.Y. - Mary Louise Emerson, Marjorie Emerson, James Braunberns, Dr. R. E. Partridge
11. Buffalo, N.Y. - Joseph Kikta, Dr. Arthur Freitag
12. Lancaster, N.Y. - Marie and Margaret Wendling, Bill and Alice McKale, Cyril Wolfling, Anna Schulz, Gertrude Webster, Bill Moore, Mrs. Harry Schafer, Mrs. Fred Danner
13. Batavia, N.Y. - Mrs. O. L. Pixley, Russell and Norma Annabel, Max and Jane Mason, George Buckland, Mr. and Mrs. Derk, Don Thuran, Dave Thompson, George Mahaney, Dr. R. M. Pixley, Harold and Barbara Dodge.
14. Hamburg, N.Y. - Lynn Rochester and Helen Creighton, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Bourne, Dr. T. R. Liston, Patti and Myles Firey, Harold and Barbara Dodge, Doris Gonzalez, Irene Rafter, Mr. and Mrs. David Bigelow.
15. Java - Grace Sisler, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lange, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Calkins, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Neischel, Miss Thelma Picket, Miss Dorothy Roth, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Crone
16. Angola, N.Y. - Miss Frances Rew, Miss Frances Rathbun, Robert Rybczynski
17. Cattaraugus, N.Y. - Mr. and Mrs. David Bigelow, Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Heil and Family
18. Delevan, N.Y. - Mrs. Edward C. Ulrich, Eugene Drozdowski
19. Fillmore, N.Y. - Katherine Palmer, Miss Ada Mills, Mr. Ralph Kleinsphen, Mrs. Andrew Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Sandford, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. Harland Hale, Miss Margaret Hodnet, Mrs. H. K. Smith, Mrs. Ivan Swanson
20. Dunkirk, N.Y. - Not reported
21. Cherry Creek, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Annabelle Hiller, Ruth Ahrens, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Elderkin, Archie Richardson, Calla and Jennie Freeman,



22. Sherman, N.Y. Gustavus Bently, Col. Hutchins, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Hoag, Anna Mazor  
- Jamestown Audubon Society: Elizabeth Pillsbury, Mr. and Mrs. James Potter, Ruth Skinner, Archie Richardson, Katherine Porter, Mrs. Arthur Baboth
23. Frewsburg, N.Y. - Jamestown Audubon Society: Robert Sundell, Annabelle Hiller, Ruth Ahrens, Coryl Belknap, Jack Gulvin, Douglas Pillsbury
24. Allegany State Pk., N.Y. - Elma Bowen
25. Allegany, N.Y. - Cattaraugus County Bird Study Club: E. Neil Saylor
26. Cuba Reservoir, N.Y. - Allegany Co. Bird Club: Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keople, Mrs. Frank Resch, Mrs. Oren Lee Smith, Mrs. Guy Ingalls, Jr., and Family
27. Bolivar, N.Y. - Allegany County Bird Club: Mrs. Gerald Smith, Mrs. Onnalee Frair, Mrs. Pearl Cass, Mrs. W. E. Hammond, Mrs. Louise Jacoby, Mr. Paul Vossler, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, Mrs. Lee W. Gross and family, Mrs. Fred Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keople, Mrs. Sherman Childs, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Carrier, Mrs. Philip Burdick, Mr. Ronald Miller, Mrs. Linda Baily, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cook, Miss Lillian Simons, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richmond, Mr. Robert Cronk, Mr. Frank O'Brien, Mrs. Mary Richards
28. Alfred, N.Y. - Allegany County Bird Club: Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Olmstead, Helen Thomas, Eva Smith, Mr. and Mrs. E. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brooks, Dr. and Mrs. Peter Finlay, Harold Snyder, Mrs. Robert G. Eisenhardt, Mrs. Walter Schogoleff, L. A. Deverell, Dr. Clarence Klingensmith, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Ulmer, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. McClure, Mrs. Neil Bernard, Mrs. Raymond Woodworth, Minnie Clark, Mrs. Roy Poole, Mr. and Mrs. Walker Rayburn, James Green, Dana Young, Mrs. Don Burdick, Mrs. Eugene Almeter, Mrs. Olive Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Pendleton, Ralph Jacobs, Mrs. Douglas Reynolds, Dale Coats, Mrs. Paul Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pitzrick, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burdick, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton

Comments and Comparisons: The Red-necked Grebe and Pied-billed Grebe are up in count considerably, the Red-necked due to a large concentration of 30 in Territory #2. Two Double-crested Cormorants were seen in the vicinity of Hamburg, Territory #14, the first on the April count in 7 years.

The Great Blue Heron count of 84 was high for the past 7 years, a previous high of 78 being recorded in 1966 and 1962. The Black-crowned Night Heron count of 46 was noted in territory #9. The swan count was high at 132 compared with a low of 18 in 1966. The high of 103,014 Canada Geese, last high of 85,000 was reported in April 1963.



The Pintail count was 1601 from a previous low of approximately 400, except in 1963, when a count of 1790 was recorded. The Canvasback was reported at 432, a greatly varying picture through the years, 11 in 1966, 571 in 1965. Greater Scaup were considerably below last year's high count of 4761, this year's being 1567. The Lesser Scaup, however, were higher, 1429 compared with 816 last year, and much lower counts in the previous years, except for the very high 1963 count of 1909.

All Scoters were on the count this year. White-winged, 306, very much higher than previous years; in 1963, 97 were reported, other years 20 or less. The first time in 5 years, one Common Scoter was observed, and for the second in 7 years, 2 Surf Scoters were noted.

The Common Merganser total of 1928, a high for the past 7 years, last year's count being 761. The Hawk count remained relatively stable since 1960, with 9 Sharp-shinned, 10 Cooper's, 127 Red-tailed, and 14 Red-shouldered (down slightly). The Marsh Hawk count was almost double the average for the past 7 years.

Two mature Bald Eagles were observed in Territory #22, and Two Ospreys were observed, one in territory 21, and one in Territory #26. The Sparrow Hawk count was high, 163, compared to the 1966 count of 115. The Grouse count remains stable at 35. The turkey count was down, only 9 being reported. The American Coot count of 110 was high, there being only 37 in 1966 and 64 in a last previous high in 1963. The Woodcock and Common Snipe totals are up, with a count of 34 and 187 respectively. The Pectoral Count was extremely low, only 7 being recorded. There was one Glaucous and one Iceland Gull reported in Territory #6. Only 6 Great Black-backed Gulls were reported. Other gulls were much the same, except for the fluctuating counts of the Bonaparte's Gulls, this year being 501.

Mourning Doves increased 300 over last year, with 795 on the 1967 count. One Barn Owl, 4 Screech Owls, 9 Great Horned, 4 Long-eared (a high for 7 years) and 3 Short-eared Owls, none reported in 1966 and 2 in 1965. The Kingfisher count was 143, over a previous high of 116 in 1964. The Yellow-shafted Flicker, 908, was a very high count, last high of 655 was reported in 1964. Most of the Woodpecker counts have not varied greatly during the past few years; however, the Hairy and Downy counts are up, 127 and 370, respectively.

The Barn Swallow and Purple Martin count is down considerably this year, but this may be due to the early date of the count and also the great mortality of these species in the month of May 1966. The Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee and Brown Creepers all reached a new high. The Robin count of 10,809 shows a steady increase for the past 7 years, being 2,031 on April 16, 1961, and increasing from 500 to 2,000 annually. The Bluebird count was 82, previous high of 94 was recorded in 1964. The Golden-crowned Kinglet at 648 was a tremendous increase, other records being from 26 to 167.

There was a noted increase in the Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds. The Cardinals at 471 increased over a previous high of 308 in 1966, and showed a steady increase from 74 to the present figure for the past 7 years. A slight increase was noted in the White-throated Sparrow at 38 over a previous high of 20. Both the Fox Sparrow count of 49 and the Swamp Sparrow count of 91 were high.



BONAPARTE'S GULL PROJECT

by

Joanna Burger and Richard Brownstein

The Bonaparte's Gull (Larus Philadelphia) breeds throughout northern Canada, nesting in spruce trees in the muskegs. It winters from West Central Washington to southern Baja, California, on the West Coast, and from Lake Erie and northern Massachusetts (mild winters) south to central Florida and along the Gulf of Mexico in the eastern United States (A. O. U. Checklist, 1957).

In N. Y. S. the Bonaparte's Gull is an abundant spring and fall migrant on the Great Lakes and in the N. Y. C. - Long Island areas. It is rarer inland, occurring primarily on rivers and the larger lakes. Summering birds may be expected on the Great Lakes, as well as in the vicinity of the N. Y. C. harbor. Although this species winters in larger numbers in the marine areas of the State, it may also be expected to occur, in mild winters, in small numbers on the Great Lakes.

Although Audubon Christmas Counts provide information about the distribution of the bird in North America at that time of year, little data exists pertaining to the distribution, flock composition, and duration and extent of their migratory movements from the breeding grounds to the wintering range.

The high concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Great Lakes as reported in the Audubon Christmas Counts provide interesting data relative to their southbound migratory movement (fig. 1).

It is obvious from the large number of gulls in the Niagara Frontier region at this time of year that this area is a funnel-point for the species. But this fact stands alone. Three theories are presently being considered relative to the fall migratory route of the Bonaparte's Gull through the Niagara Frontier:

1. It is a direct west-to-east route across the state to the Atlantic Ocean.
2. The route follows the St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic Ocean and becomes a coastal movement southward.
3. The route is westward to the Cleveland-Toledo area and southward from that area (presumably down the Mississippi Valley to wintering areas primarily south of continental U. S.).

AIMS OF THE RESEARCH

The authors are attempting to ascertain the extent and duration of local movements of the Bonaparte's Gull in the Niagara Frontier region. Special emphasis is placed on the ratio of adults to immatures in flock composition through the changing seasons. Data is also being collected relative to the birds country-wide distribution and movement with the hope of eventually determining the migratory routes of the entire population in North America.

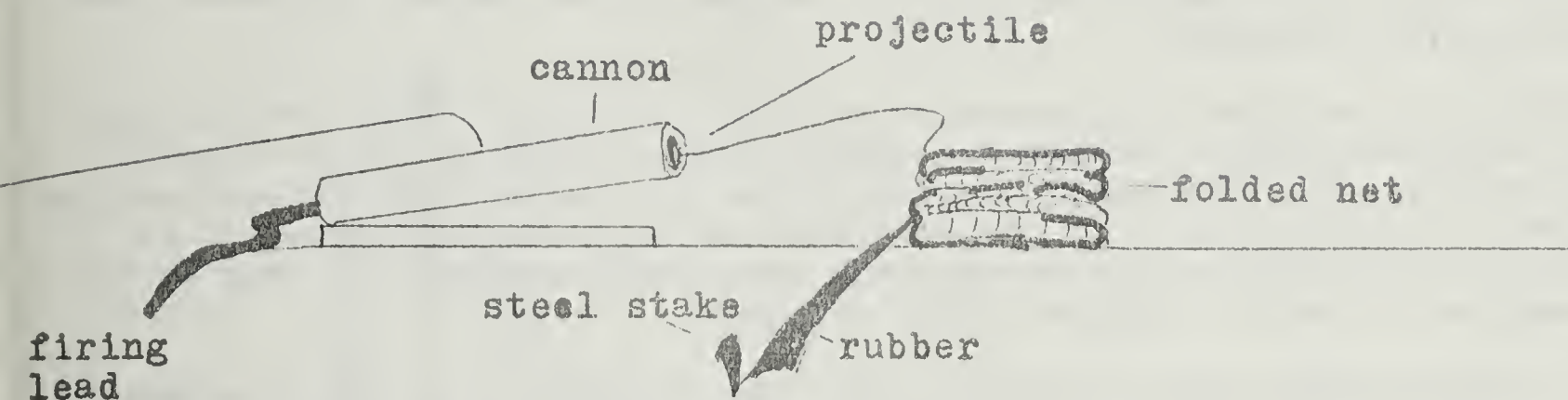
Fig. I Peak Numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls in Eastern United States and Canada on the Audubon Christmas Counts. \*

STATE or PROVINCE	CITY	PEAK NUMBER -Year	NUMBER OF YEARS OVER 1000 BIRDS WERE REPORTED
Ontario	Blenheim	2500 - 1952	3
British Col.	Ladner	1053 - 1962	1
Rhode Island	Narragansett	4805 - 1961	1
New York	Brooklyn	4720 - 1950	8
	Montauk	1760 - 1958	2
	Southern Nassau	1268 - 1965	1
	Smithtown	1245 - 1965	1
	Bronx	1235 - 1964	1
	Manhattan	6000 - 1965	7
	Staten Isl.	5406 - 1956	3
	Buffalo	6928 - 1959	10
New Jersey	Barneget	1100 - 1956	1
	Cape May	1700 - 1965	1
	Long Branch	1628 - 1957	4
Delaware	Rehoboth	3000 - 1960	2
Georgia	Sapelo Is.	5000 - 1964	1
Ohio	Ashtabula	2350 - 1952	3
	Cleveland	1585 - 1965	3
	Lakewood	1686 - 1954	3
	Toledo	4500 - 1953	5
	Elyria-Lorain	6500 - 1965	2
	Gypsum	2060 - 1964	1
Wisconsin	Racine	1059 - 1965	1

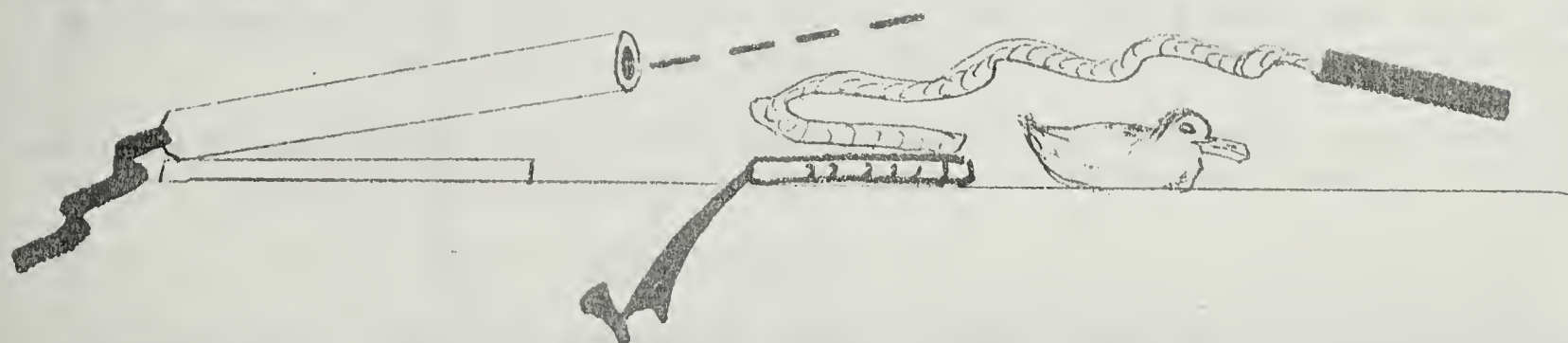
\* Data is for the last 20 years. Every city having reported more than 1000 gulls is reported in the chart.



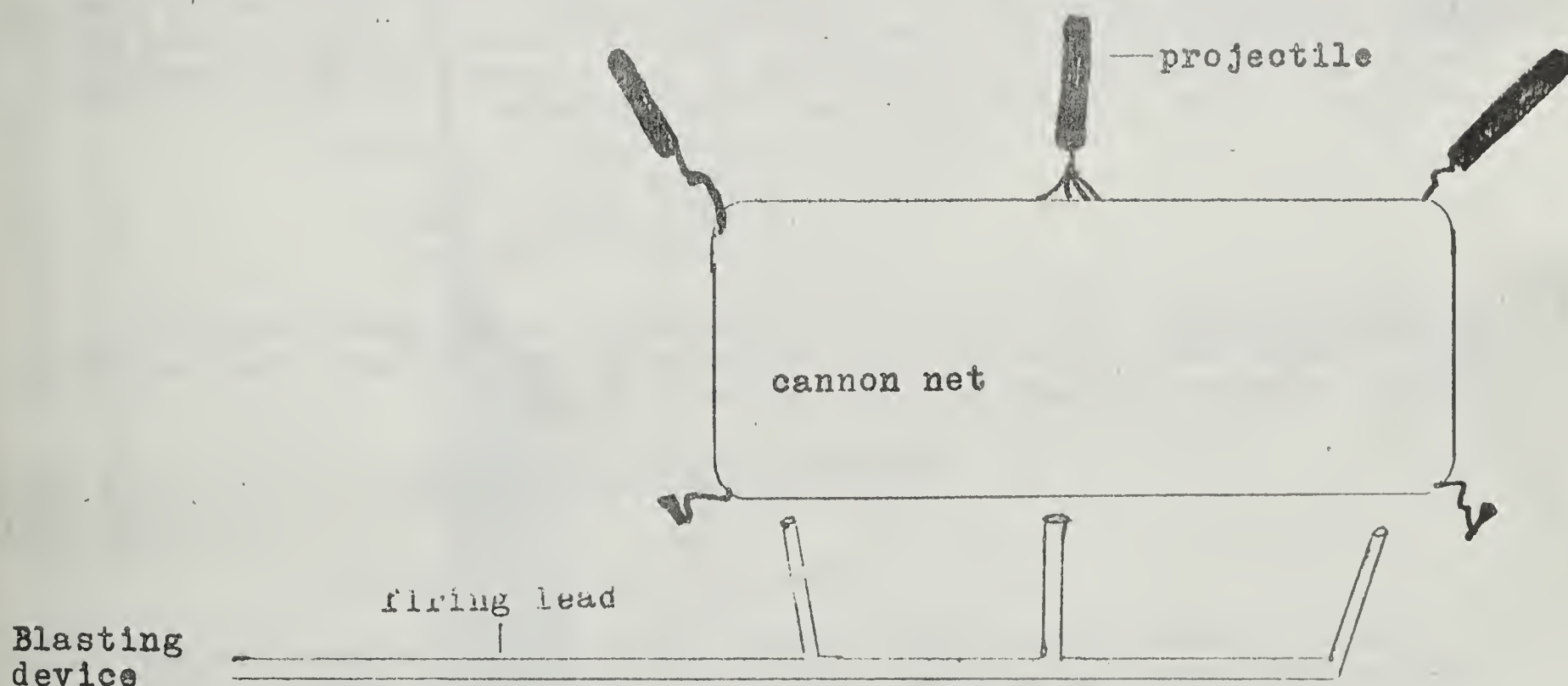
Fig 2. Cannon Net Trap



BEFORE FIRING



JUST AFTER FIRING



OUTSTRETCHED CANNON NET TRAP

### METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Bonaparte's Gulls will be caught in a cannon-net trap on the Bird Island Pier in Buffalo, New York; they will be banded, color marked, released, and their movements followed.

Trapping operations are scheduled to begin in August, and continue into fall. Three recoilless cannons are hooked up in series with a 20' by 75' nylon net (fig. 2). When the blasting device is touched off, the projectile is expelled, carrying with it the fore edge of the net. When the net is completely outstretched, the projectiles drop while holding the edge of the net down, and so trap the gulls within the net.

All gulls caught will be banded with U.S. Department of the Interior bands, and the Bonaparte's Gulls will be color marked. The back feathers are dyed for easy sight identification. A different color of dye will be used for each marking session. Specially issued permits restrict the use of these dyes to different species and different regions, thus preventing the possibility of overlap. Thus, if one spots a gull with an orange back, it can only be a Bonaparte's Gull, marked by the authors on the day that they used the orange dye. The dye can thus be used to ascertain local movement and elngth of time a given gull is in the area.

Age, sex, plumage, size measurements and weight measurements will be recorded as well as color of eyes, orbital ring, legs and feet.

!! HELP WANTED !!

This type of research requires the continued support of the field ornithologists in the area. Their reports (both positive and negative) are invaluable. All data is needed relative to date, location, number of birds, number of immatures, and observed movement. Any interesting behavior activity should be reported. During the marking phase of the research, the time of the observation of any colored bird will also be pertinent. Data should be sent to: Joanna Burger  
Department of biology  
State U. College  
1300 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, New York.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: This research is being supported by funds from the Mae P. Smith Fund of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City; and the Research Foundation of the State of New York.

### BIRDING IN THE DUNKIRK AREA

by  
Joanna Burger and Richard Brownstein

One of the most interesting birding areas in the Niagara Frontier is the Dunkirk Harbor and adjacent Point Gratiot. The following is presented in order to illustrate the scope and variety of birds observed in this area during April and early May of this year. All observations, unless otherwise noted, were made by the authors.



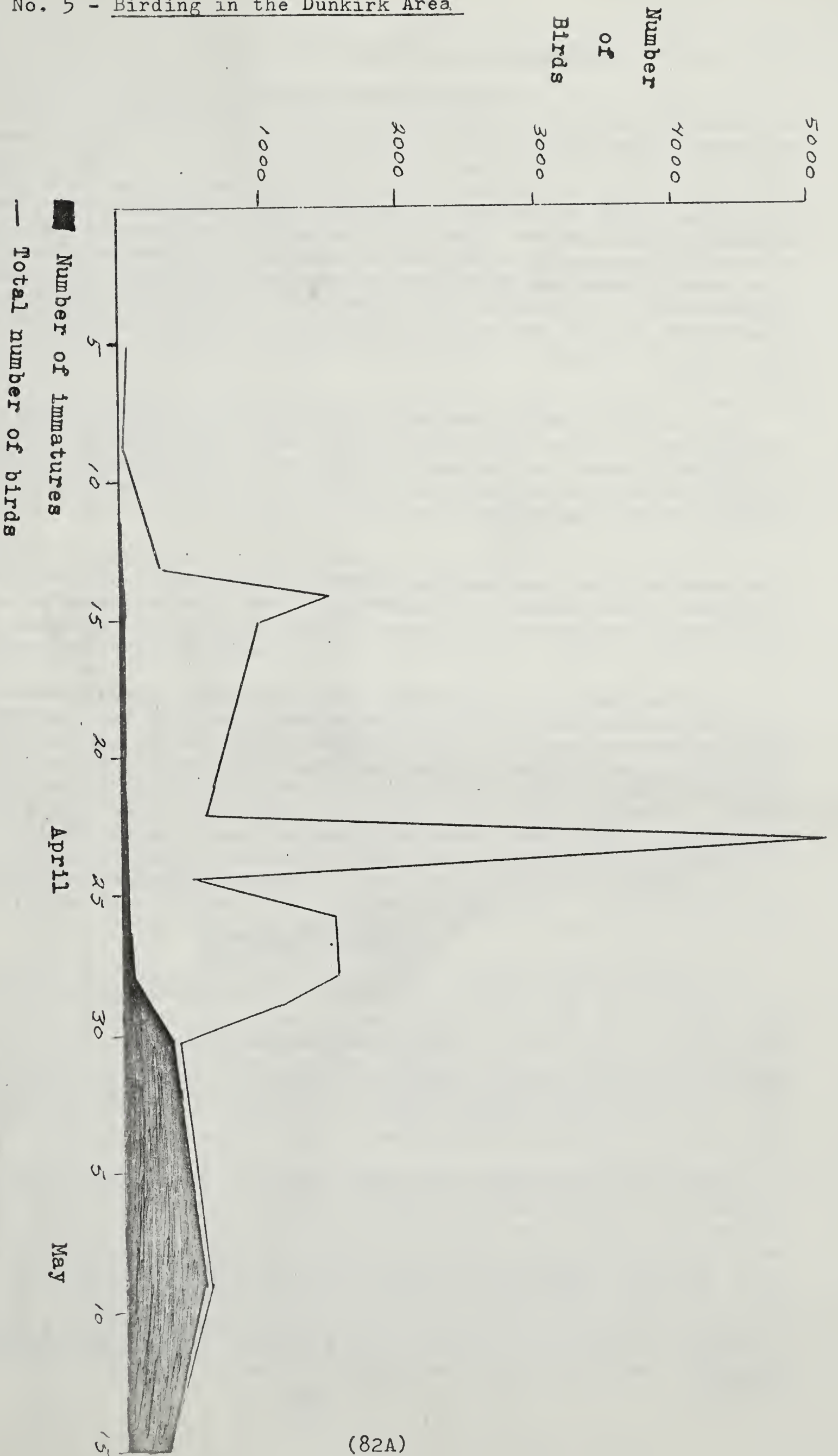


Fig. 1. NUMBERS OF BONAPARTE'S GULLS IN THE DUNKIRK HARBOR  
Observed by Joanna Burger and Richard Brownstein. April 1 to May 15.

The Bonaparte's Gull provided an interesting study in gull movement. West-to-east movement of Bonaparte's Gulls was observed at Point Gratiot on Several Days (April 14, 15, 16, 20 and 30). The steady stream of Bonaparte's Gulls continued to pass by Pt. Gratiot all day on April 15, but they usually the movement was observed from sunrise until 8:30 or 9:00 A.M. Movement of Ring-billed Gulls was also observed on several occasions. The numbers (Fig. 1) of Bonaparte's Gulls are particularly interesting because the records of the B. O. S. indicate that numbers in April usually are less than 3000 except for the April Bird Counts (which encompass the entire Niagara Frontier Area). The 5000 Bonaparte's Gulls observed at 4 P. M. by Burger on April 23 is thus of special note. Thirty-five hundred Bonaparte's Gulls were observed earlier in the day by Elderkin and Andrles.

Single Little Gulls were observed in the harbor along with the Bonaparte's Gulls (April 14, April 23, and May 9). More Little Gulls may be observed in our area due to the increased study of the Bonaparte's Gull. Upon closer examination of the Bonaparte's Gulls in the Harbor, Benham observed a Laughing Gull on April 20.

Although it has been several years since a Double-crested Cormorant has been recorded from the Dunkirk Harbor, a single bird was found on April 20 by Benham. This number was surpassed by the four cormorants observed on the breakwall on April 23 by the Andrles, Elderkin and Burger. Two birds remained on the 25th of April, and only one was observed on April 27.

A Purple Sandpiper apparently wintered in the Dunkirk Harbor, and was observed as late as April 22 and April 23. On both days the bird was observed and photographed for two hours as it fed on the pier area. April 22 was an extremely windy day (West - 35 mph) and the Sandpiper remained on the lee side of a eight inch concrete wall, feeding on earth-worms. It foraged on a dry, sand and gravel area with some grass and one mud puddle. The authors were as close as 5 feet to the bird, and on April 23 the bird walked under the car beneath the front door. This bird is particularly noteworthy because it is a photographed record of a wintering inland bird. The Purple Sandpiper is classified as casual in western New York according to the A. O. U. Checklist, 5th edition.

On April 14 five Caspian Terns were observed with one Common Tern. This seems to be an excellent year for observing Caspian Terns, as five were observed on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie on April 21 by Burger, and several other single birds were recorded for other localities (see noteworthy records). Of special interest is a single Caspian Tern heard as it migrated past Point Gratiot on May 3 at 5:00 A. M. (EST) when it was still very dark (Sunrise was at 6:07 EST). A check of the harbor later in the morning revealed two Caspian Terns with several Common Terns.

Certainly one of the outstanding records is the Brant which apparently wintered in the Dunkirk Harbor. Although noted previously by the local observers, it was first recorded Jan. 22 in the Prothonotary (33:17). The Brant was observed periodically during February and March and as late as April 22 (see noteworthy records). Mitchell (1965)<sup>1</sup> classifies the Brant as an Irregular, uncommon Transient Visitant in the spring. No dates are cited for the Brant anywhere in our area between December 7 and April 12.<sup>2</sup>

1. Clark S. Beardslee and Harold D. Mitchell. 1965. Birds of the Niagara Frontier. Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. 22:116.

2. ibid.



PURPLE MARTIN DISASTER

by  
Richard Brownstein

As a result of the unseasonably cold and wet period of May 3 thru 16 of this year, what appears to be an appalling number of the breeding Purple Martins in this region have died of starvation. The rain, in addition to the cold, seems to be the chief culprit in keeping flying insects below a level sufficient for many martins to sustain life. Numbers of dead, dying and weakened birds were reported throughout this period, chiefly from May 11 thru May 17.

A short survey of Martin houses and the adjacent shore areas of Lake Erie from Morgan's Point, Ontario to Rock Point Provincial Park, Ontario, on May 17 revealed only five birds in the entire stretch. All of the houses except one were without Martins, and that one had a live female sitting motionless next to the body of a dead male. A live male was picked up near the base of this house in an extremely emaciated condition, unable to fly but a few feet.

This is the second consecutive year that unseasonable weather has dealt this species a crippling blow. Most observers have remarked that Martins appeared less numerous this spring than in recent years, a fact possibly attributable to last years losses.

Observers are urged to collect all pertinent data on this species, and send it to the writer. Particular attention should be paid whenever possible to the nesting birds. Most owners of Martin houses are surprisingly aware of the welfare and status of their charges, and are quite cooperative when contacted about them.

A count of the Martins in the Jamestown roost in late August will doubtless be revealing when compared to prior years (e.g. 100,000 estimated in 1960), as will this year's May census.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

No meetings are scheduled for the months of July and August.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

Sun., Aug 6th, to Montezuma Refuge; Wendlings, Ldrs.; meet 6:30 a.m., Howard Johnsons, Main near Kensington; DETAILS NEXT ISSUE.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N. Y. 14301.





# THE PROTHONOTARY

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THE

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## THE MONTH

May was exceptionally cold, the average temperature being 50.1 degrees, which is 4.7 below the long-range average. Precipitation was 0.74 inches above normal. On May 7 an inch of snow fell. Frosts were frequent through the 23rd.

Disaster struck the Purple Martins for the second successive year. Coincidentally, the largest numbers of casualties were on Thursday and Friday morning of the 2nd week in May, the same as last year. This year the dates were May 11 and 12. During the nine days preceding these disaster days the average daily minimum temperature was 37.3 degrees, the average maximum was 47.4. The daily average was 8.8 degrees below normal for those dates. Few insects were flying anywhere or at any time. Reports suggest that even more Martins died this year than a year ago. Many colonies, formerly populous, now (June 1967) are entirely deserted; some still have one or two pairs, while others, especially a few near the Canadian shore of Lake Erie, are about as prosperous as ever. Even in the last-named area, however, there are far fewer Martins than in previous years. Other species of swallows also suffered losses. On the morning of May 11, several dozen Barn Swallows and a few Tree Swallows were hopping on the lawn near the Fort Erie waterworks, acting as if finding some insects in the grass and perhaps thus saving themselves from starvation. On the same day, "about a dozen or fifteen" Tree Swallows are said to have been found freshly dead beneath the utility wires beside the road at Beaver Meadow Refuge, and no live ones were seen, whereas many had been present a few days earlier.

The cold weather was not limited to the dates mentioned, however. From the 3rd through the 23rd only one day had a temperature above normal. During this cold period, many birds, among which Ruby-crowned Kinglets were especially conspicuous, postponed by several days their departure to northern nesting grounds. In general, land-birding was poor. There was no day with a major pile-up of land-birds. Even on days such as that of the B.O.S. Bird



Count on the 21st when large numbers of species were listed, the majority of observers reported that the number of individuals of most species was very low.

This was not the case with all the water-birds, however. The 108 Knots is by far the largest number ever recorded here, the previous maximum being 45 on September 18, 1949. The 195 Turnstones, 470 Dunlins, and 12 Caspian Terns are all among the largest numbers ever listed here for those species. There were also more Cormorants and Gadwalls than usual.

Several rarities highlighted the month. A Harris' Sparrow in full breeding plumage spent two days at John and Mabel Lehrer's feeding station at Newfane. A female Yellow-headed Blackbird was first found and identified by Mrs. Joseph Dewey at her feeding station in Tonawanda, where it was seen by many B.O.S. members during the ten days. This species had not been found in the Niagara Frontier Region since 1956. A Snowy Egret and a "Lawrence's Warbler" are also of special interest. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	May	7	15	Wilson to Shadigee	Burger, Brownstein
	"	25	4	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Burger et al
Red-thr. Loon	"	20	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham, Black
Red-necked Grebe	"	8	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Horned Grebe	"	6	110	Lowbanks to Grant Point, Ont.	Burger et al
D.-cr. Cormorant	"	6	9	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Burger et al
	"	7	4	Wilson to Pt. Breeze	Hess et al
	"	10	3	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Wendlings
	"	19	4	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	20	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham, Dorst
	"	30	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Inskip, Zehr et al
* <u>Snowy Egret</u>	"	31	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Clark
<u>Black-cr. Night Heron</u>	"	24	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	30	2	Chambers Corners, Ont.	Seeber et al
<u>Yellow-c. Night Heron</u>	"	1-15	1	Five Corners	Burtions et al
<u>Whistling Swan</u>	"	19	6	Amity Lake, Belmont	Burtions
	"	25	5	Camelot Beach, Ont.	Clark
	"	30	2	Iroquois NWR	Benhams
(maximum counts and final date; 12 other records for month)					
Brant	"	28	5	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Filor, Wagner
	"	30	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Inskip, Zehr et al



Vol. 33, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Canada Goose	May	12	12	Long Beach, Ont.	Curry
"	"	19	2	Lowbanks, Ont.	Andrle et al
"	"	25	1	Camelot Beach, Ont.	Clark
Snow Goose	"	9	6	North Collins	Bourne
Gadwall	"	6	6	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Burger et al
"	"	19	10	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Clark
"	"	22	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
"	"	30	3	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Filor
Shoveler	"	4	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
"	"	6	4	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Burger et al
"	"	6	2	Burnaby, Ont.	Burger et al
"	"	28	2	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Filor, Wagner
Redhead	"	12	8	Grant Point, Ont.	Curry
"	"	22	1	Camelot Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
Ring-necked Duck	"	19	1	Windmill Point, Ont.	Clark
Canvasback	"	19	4	Port Colborne, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
"	"	22	1	Camelot Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
White-w. Scoter	"	28	22	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Filor, Wagner
Surf Scoter	"	1-11	3-6	Thunder Bay, Ont.	Klepfer
Ruddy Duck	"	22	6	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
Hooded Merganser	"	16	2	Westfield	Rew, Swanson
"	"	28	1	Belmont	Burtions
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	12	10	over Hanover	Lunardini
"	"	24	1	Sturgeon Point	Bourne
"	"	26	1	Cazenovia Park, Bflo.	Rybczynski
Red-tailed Hawk	"	19	21	over Hanover	Burger, Brownstein
				(all immature birds)	
Broadwinged Hawk	"	17	30	over Hanover	Lunardini
"	"	18	10	over Hanover	Burger, Brownstein
				(all immature birds)	
"	"	23	8	over Hanover	Lunardini
Rough-legged Hawk	"	4L	1	Lyndonville	Thill
Bald Eagle	"	6	1	over Hamburg	Andrle, Bourne
				(immature bird)	
Osprey	"	1-10	1-3	Belmont	Burtions
"	"	5	2	over Hanover	Lunardini
"	"	6	1	Town of Charlotte	Rew
"	"	8	1	Water Valley	Bourne
"	"	10	1	Woodlawn	Burger, Brownstein
"	"	11	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
"	"	12	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
"	"	13	1	Thunder Bay, Ont.	Klepfer
"	"	20	1	North Boston	Andrle
Turkey	"	5,8	1,1	Wellsville	Burtions
"	"	25	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
*Semipalm. Plover	"	14F	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Wagner, Filor
"	"	17	1	Burnaby, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
*Am. Golden Plover	"	20	1	Amherst	Inskip, Zehr et al
*Black-bellied Plover	"	12F	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
"	"	27	10	Grant Point, Ont.	Clark, Wade
*Ruddy Turnstone	"	13F	1	Dunkirk	Rew, Buck
"	"	14	6	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
"	"	22	195	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Andrle et al
*Whimbrel	May	15F	10	Mohawk Point, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	May	23	153	Can. Shore, Lake Erie	Clark
"	"	23	25	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag

Vol. 33, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

*Whimbrel	May	27	160	Can. Shore, Lake Erie	Benham et al
	"	27	328	Can. Shore, Lake Erie	Clark, Wade
	"	28	2	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Filor, Wagner
	"	28	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Clark
	"	28	3	Castaday Point, Ont.	Clark
	"	29	6	Castaday Point, Ont.	Clark
	"	29	10	Windmill Point, Ont.	Clark
	"	30	123	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Filor
Solitary Sandpiper	"	23L	2	Buffalo	Rybczynski
*Willet	May	11	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitag
	May	14	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag
	May	16, 19	1, 1	Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
Greater Yellowlegs	"	12	3	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Burger
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	18	3	Rosburg	Burtens, Palmer
*Knot	"	22	5	Port Colborne, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	23	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
	"	23	4	Long Beach, Ont.	Clark
	"	28	108	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Filor, Wagner
Purple Sandpiper	May	20	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Benham, Black
W.-rump. Sandpiper	May	28	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Clark
	"	28	8	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Filor, Wagner
	"	30	3	Sugarloaf, Ont.	Filor
	"	30	2	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Filor
*Least Sandpiper	"	6F	2	Belvidere	Burtens
	"	12	4	Grant Point, Ont.	Curry
Dunlin	"	19	470	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Curry, Olmstead
	"	27	300	Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Clark, Wade
*Short-b. Dowitcher	"	17F	2	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	18	3	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitag
*Semi-palm. Sandpiper	"	13F	1	Dunkirk	Rew, Buck
	"	19	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Clark
	"	19	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
*Sanderling	"	20F	3	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Burger, Seeber
Bonaparte's Gull	"	6	4341	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Burger et al
Little Gull	May	9	1	Dunkirk	Burger, Brownstein
*Forster's Tern	May	19	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Burger, Brownstein
Caspian Tern	"	19	8	Dunkirk Harbor	Burger, Brownstein
	"	29	12	Can. Shore Lake Erie	Clark
(maximum counts for month; 10 other records received)					
Black Tern	May	1	2	Mud Lake, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
*Black-b. Cuckoo	"	8F	1	Wellsville	Burtens
	"	20	1	Forest Lawn Cem, Bflo.	Wendlings
	"	20-30	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Barn Owl	"	7	1	Youngstown Cemetery	Burger et al
Long-eared Owl	"	19	1	Long Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
*Whip-poor-will	"	4F	1	Franklinville	Burger, Wicklands
	"	13, 14	1, 1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
*Common Nighthawk	"	13F	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	19	1	Buffalo	Hess
*R.-thr. Hummingbird	"	2F-31	1-2	Springbrook	Danner
	"	4	1	Belmont	Burtens
Pileated Wdpkr.	"	1	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	"	18	1	Batavia	Buckland
Red-headed Wdpkr.	"	1	1	Wellsville	Burtens
	"	12	1	Cazenovia Park, Bflo.	Rybczynski



Vol. 33, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Red-headed Wdpkr.	May	13	1 Stafford	Buckland
*E. Kingbird	"	6F	1 Java	Wendlings
	"	6F	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	6F	3 Angelica	Burtens
	"	13	1 Batavia	Buckland
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	"	5	1 Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Andrle
*Yellow-b. Flycatcher	"	19F	1 Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	19F	1 Long Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
*Traill's Flycatcher	"	19F	2 Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	20	3 Grand Island	Klabundes
	"	20-31	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
*Least Flycatcher	"	1F	1 Delaware Park, Bflo.	Wendlings
	"	2	1 Delaware Park, Bflo.	Andrle, Byron
*E. Wood Pewee	"	6F	1 Grand Island	Klabundes
	"	12	1 Elma	Danner, Schafer
*Olive-s. Flycatcher	"	12F	1 Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Filor
	"	16-19	1 Abino Hills, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-31	2 Athol Springs (f)	Csont
	"	16	2 Abino Hills, Ont.	Curry
	"	16-19	1 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
	"	22	1 South Wales	Andrle et al
Carolina Wren	"	10	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings
	"	15	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	"	15	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	McKales
	"	16	1 Waverly Beach, Ont.	Curry
	"	16	2 Abino Hills, Ont.	Curry
	"	19	1 Belmont	Burtens
	"	20	2 Erie Beach, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
*Long-b. Marsh Wren	"	9F	1 Langford	Bourne
*Short-b. Marsh Wren	"	27F	3 Bear Lake	Rew, Buck
Mockingbird	"	6	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Burger et al
	"	15	1 Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	19	1 Lowbanks, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	28	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Clark, Wagner et al
Catbird	"	1	2 Port Maitland, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
*Wood Thrush	"	1F	1 Como Park, Lancaster	Kikta
	"	1F	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
	"	2	1 Sturgeon Point	Wendlings
*Swainson's Thrush	"	15F	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	"	15F	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	"	15F	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	McKales
	"	16	1 Elma	Danner, Schafer
	"	16	1 Belmont	Burtens et al
*Gray-ch. Thrush	"	15F	1 Scio	Burtens
	"	19	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Clark
*Veery	"	1F	1 Delaware Park, Bflo.	Wendlings
	"	1F	1 Cazenovia Park, Bflo.	Rybczynski
	"	4	1 Eden	Bourne
Golden-cr. Kinglet	"	27	2 Iroquois NWR	Andrle
Loggerhead Shrike	"	10	1 Orchard Park	Bourne
*Yellow-thr. Vireo	"	5F	1 Water Valley	Bourne
	"	5F	2 Belmont	Burtens
	"	8	1 Belmont	Burtens
*Red-eyed Vireo	"	16F	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	18	1 Hamburg	Danner, Schafer
*Philadelphia Vireo	"	18F	2 Delaware Park, Bflo.	Filor

Vol. 33, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

*Philadelphia Vireo	May	20	1	Buffalo	Hess, Hammond
*Warbling Vireo	"	2F-31	1-2	Springbrook	Danner
	"	11	1	Athol Springs	Bourne, Csont
Black-&-wh. Warbler	"	1	1	Mud Lake, Ont.	Curry
<u>Prothonotary Warbler</u>	"	26	1	Point Abino, Ont.	Clark
*Golden-w. Warbler	"	12F	1	Buffalo	Hess
	"	12F	1	Water Valley	Bourne, Booth
	"	16	1	Waverly Beach, Ont.	Curry
*Blue-w. Warbler	"	2F	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	5	1	Belmont	Burtons
	"	18	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Freitag
*"Lawrence's Warbler"	"	27	1	Elma	Kikta
	"	29	1	Elma	Kikta, Rybczynski
*Tennessee Warbler	"	11F	1	Athol Springs	Bourne, Csont
	"	14	1	Buffalo	Hess
*Orange-cr. Warbler	"	13F	1	Buffalo	Clark, Wade
	"	14	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Thill
Nashville Warbler	"	1	1	Cazenovia Park, Bflo.	Rybczynski
	"	1	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
*Parula Warbler	"	19F	1	Point Gratiot	Burger, Brownstein
	"	19F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Clark
Magnolia Warbler	"	5	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
*Cape May Warbler	"	15F	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	"	16	1	Abino Hills, Ont.	Curry
	"	16	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry
	"	16	1	Belmont	Burtons
*Bl.-thr. Bl. Warbler	"	12F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry
	"	13	1	Dunkirk	Rew, Buck
	"	13	1	Buffalo	Clark, Wade
Myrtle Warbler	"	29	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Hess
*Cerulean Warbler	"	4F	1	Buffalo	Rew
	"	19	1	Athol Springs	Bourne
*Blackburn. Warbler	"	6F	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	12	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry
*Chestnut-s. Warbler	"	12F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry
	"	14	1	Delaware Park, Bflo.	Thill
*Bay-br. Warbler	"	17F	1	Forest Lawn Cem, Bflo.	Filor
	"	19-23	1-5	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	19	1	Buffalo	Rybczynski
	"	19	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
*Blackpoll Warbler	"	19F	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	26	1	Water Valley	Bourne
*Prairie Warbler	May	15	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	McKales
	May	16	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
	May	16	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry
	May	26	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Seeber
Palm Warbler	May	1	1	Cazenovia Park, Bflo.	Rybczynski
*Ovenbird	"	1F	1	Buffalo	Hess
	"	1F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
	"	2	1	Williamsville	Wendlings, Webster
*Northern Waterthrush	"	3F	2	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
*Mourning Warbler	"	16F	1	Mayville	Rew, Swanson
	"	18	3	Buffalo	Filor
*Yellowthroat	"	3F	1	Eden	Bourne
	"	3F	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta



Vol. 33, No. 6 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

*Yellowthroat	May	5	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	5-31	2-4	Belmont	Burtens
*Yellow-br. Chat	"	10F	1	Orchard Park	Bourne
	"	12	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry
*Hooded Warbler	"	16F	1	Cherry Creek	Rew, Swanson
*Wilson's Warbler	"	10F	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings
	"	11	1	Athol Springs	Bourne, Csont
*Canada Warbler	"	15F	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	"	16	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	"	16	6	Chautauqua County	Rew, Swanson
	"	16	4	Elma	Danner, Schafer
Amer. Redstart	"	11	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
Bobolink	"	4	1	Eden	Bourne
Western Meadowlark	"	1-12	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
	"	10	1	Orchard Park	Bourne
	"	16	1	Dunkirk	Rew, Swanson
	"	19	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Andrle, et al
*Yellow-h. Blackbird	"	8-17	1	City of Tonawanda	Andrle et al
*Orchard Oriole	"	12F	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Curry, Olmstead
	"	18	1	Forest Lawn Cem., Bflo.	Seeber
*Baltimore Oriole	"	2F-31	2-6	Springbrook	Danner
	"	2F	1	Point Gratiot	Burger, Brownstein
	"	3	1	Hamburg	Bourne
*Scarlet Tanager	"	2F	1	Point Gratiot	Burger, Brownstein
	"	15	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Wendlings, Webster
	"	15	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
*Rose-br. Grosbeak	"	2F	1	Sturgeon Point	Wendlings, Webster
	"	2F	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
	"	3	1	Water Valley	Bourne
*Indigo Bunting	"	15F	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	16	1	Abino Hills, Ont.	Curry
House Finch	"	1-23	1	Athol Springs	Csont, Andrle et al
Red Crossbill	"	22	14	Hamburg	Andrle et al
Lark Bunting	"	1-13	1	Belmont (f)	Burtens
Tree Sparrow	"	6L	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Fox Sparrow	May	24	1	Cazenovia Park, Bflo.	Rybczynski
*Lincoln's Sparrow	"	6F	1	Belmont	Burtens
	"	8	1	Hamburg	Bourne
*Harris' Sparrow	"	20	1	Newfane	Lehrers
Wh.-thr. Sparrow	"	30	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Filor

Species and subspecies previously recorded:	189
Additional species, subspecies and named hybrids recorded in this issue:	68
Total for 1967:	257

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Evening Trip to B.O.S. Sanctuary - April 21, 1967

On Friday evening, April 21, seventeen members of the Audubon Society and the B.O.S. met at the Grand Island Sanctuary on Love Road to observe the Woodcock courtship display. A total of seven birds cooperated to make the trip enjoyable. One Snipe called from the wooded plot across the road.

One group of observers was especially fortunate, when over their heads two Woodcock circled repeatedly, close enough to be seen and heard easily. I, too, had a special observation. Having waited a while for late comers I walked up the path to join the group. Suddenly, just over the border hedge, a Woodcock came down, still calling. I crept up to the shrubs and was able to see him several times rise and return only a few feet away.

- Marie A. Wendling

Field Trip to Canadian Shore of Lake Erie - May 27, 1967

Sixteen observers met at the Peace Bridge for our annual Whimbrel trip, in bright weather. A stop at Erie Beach provided a few late warblers, chiefly Wilson's Canada, Blackpoll and Bay-breasted. Point Abino turned up a few "peep".

Sugarloaf Point at Port Colbourne was swarming with shore birds. Feeding at the water's edge was a group of 119 Whimbrel with an unusually large flock of 88 Knots. Our stop at Grant Point increased our totals to 160 Whimbrel and 131 Knots, which we believe is the highest count of spring Knots in the B.O.S. records.

Other birds of interest were an Orchard Oriole at Morgan's Point and a Western Meadowlark at Rockhouse Point.

- Paul Benham and Daniel Salisbury

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FALL BIRD WALKS SCHEDULED

Saturday morning bird walks will be held at 8:00 A.M. on the following mornings:

August 26 - Katrina Schwenger  
September 2 - Sheldon Merritt  
September 9 - the Wendlings  
September 16 - Dr. Freitag

September 23 - Ray Regone  
September 30 - Clarence Rote  
October 7 - Gertrude Webster  
October 14 - Ruth Percival

Walks will start at Rumsey and Windsor roads and will be in Delaware Park and Forest Lawn Cemetery.



Report of the May Bird CountDate: May 21, 1967

Weather Conditions: The cold, cloudy morning changed to a warm, sunny afternoon. Ice was present on some bird baths early in the morning with temperatures in the upper twenties. Temperatures were in the fifties in the afternoon. Winds varied in both direction and intensity, depending on the territory.

Species Recorded: Figures in parenthesis indicate division numbers where the species was observed when it was recorded in 3 or fewer divisions. Underlined common names indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Dates Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S. 1965), has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Loons - Mergansers:

Common Loon	27	Blue-winged Teal	126
Red-throated Loon	1 (8)	American Widgeon	49
Horned Grebe	4 (23)	Shoveler	2 (6,18)
Pied-billed Grebe	19	Wood Duck	105
Double-cr. Cormorant	1 (23)	Redhead	8 (23)
Great Blue Heron	232	Ring-necked Duck	2 (26)
Green Heron	103	Canvasback	7 (27)
Black-cr. Night Heron	2 (2,11)	Greater Scaup	60
*Least Bittern	2 (6,26)	Lesser Scaup	277
American Bittern	37	Common Goldeneye	14 (27)
Whistling Swan	14 (5,9)	Bufflehead	91
Canada Goose	96	Oldsquaw	50
Mallard	297	White-w. Scoter	6 (23)
Black Duck	61	Ruddy Duck	1 (7)
Gadwall	9 (6,22,23)	Hooded Merganser	3 (18,23)
Pintail	1 (10)	Common Merganser	97
Green-w. Teal	6 (10,14,23)	Red-br. Merganser	195

Vultures - Rails:

Turkey Vulture	41	Sparrow Hawk	61
Sharp-sh. Hawk	1 (14)	Ruffed Grouse	34
Cooper's Hawk	6	Ring-n. Pheasant	208
Red-tailed Hawk	166	Turkey	2 (18,27)
Red-should. Hawk	27	Virginia Rail	3 (10,26)
Broad-winged Hawk	28	Sora	9
Marsh Hawk	21	Common Gallinule	16
Osprey	6	American Coot	64

Plovers - Terns:

Semipalm. Plover	48	*White-rump. Sand	3 (19)
Killdeer	346	Least Sandpiper	36
<u>Amer. Golden Plover</u>	1 (6)	Dunlin	682
Black-bellied Plover	2 (6)	Short-b. Dowitcher	19 (6,9)
Ruddy Turnstone	306 (7,14)	Semipalm. Sandpiper	21
American Woodcock	26	Sanderling	8 (6,7,12)

Vol. 33, No. 6 - May Bird Count (cont.)

Common Snipe	34	Gr. Black-b. Gull	26
Whimbrel	84 (6,7)	Herring Gull	619
Upland Plover	37	Ring-b. Gull	6011
Spotted Sandpiper	274	Bonaparte's Gull	909
Solitary Sandpiper	23	Common Tern	3161
Greater Yellowlegs	7 (6,10)	Caspian Tern	4 (6,8)
Lesser Yellowlegs	9	Black Tern	186
Knot	2 (6)		
Pectoral Sandpiper	29		

Doves - Swallows:

Mourning Dove	730	Pileated Woodpecker	29
*Yellow-b. Cuckoo	7	Red-bellied Wdpkr.	8
Black-b. Cuckoo	15	Red-headed Wdpkr.	74
Barn Owl	1 (14)	Sapsucker	33
Screech Owl	3 (5,14)	Hairy Woodpecker	116
Gr. Horned Owl	24	Downy Woodpecker	340
Barred Owl	15	Eastern Kingbird	714
Whip-poor-will	2 (6,7)	Great Cr. Flycatcher	113
Common Nighthawk	2 (19,23)	Eastern Phoebe	330
Chimney Swift	1045	Yellow-b. Flycatcher	7
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	55	Traill's Flycatcher	25
Belted Kingfisher	133	Least Flycatcher	222
Yellow-sh. Flicker	612	E. Wood Pewee	86
		Olive-s. Flycatcher	4 (12,25)

Jays - Starlings:

H. Lark ( <u>praticola</u> )	131	Mockingbird	5 (15,26)
Tree Swallow	2273	Catbird	1142
Bank Swallow	1962	Brown Thrasher	259
Rough-w. Swallow	617	Robin	6986
Barn Swallow	6409	Wood Thrush	323
Cliff Swallow	162	Hermit Thrush	19
Purple Martin	1034	Swainson's Thrush	107
Blue Jay	910	Gray-ch. Thrush	8
Common Crow	1959	Veery	222
Black-c. Chickadee	874	Eastern Bluebird	116
Tufted Titmouse	14	Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	21
White-br. Nuthatch	222	Golden-cr. Kinglet	3(13,14,15)
Red-br. Nuthatch	24	Ruby-cr. Kinglet	81
Brown Creeper	17	Water Pipit	5(12,15,27)
House Wren	402	Cedar Waxwing	71
Winter Wren	3(7,14,21)	Loggerhead Shrike	2 (5,27)
Carolina Wren	2 (8)	Starling	15,120
Long-b. Marsh Wren	24		

Vireos - Warblers:

Yellow-thr. Vireo	24	Bl.-thr. Gr. Warbler	128
Solitary Vireo	8 (8,24)	Cerulean Warbler	7 (1,12)
Red-eyed Vireo	107	Blackburnian Warbler	129
Philadelphia Vireo	7	Chestnut-s. Warbler	262



Warbling Vireo	98	Bay-br. Warbler	48
Bl.-&-Wh. Warbler	13	Blackpoll Warbler	23
*Prothonotary Warbler	3 (5)	Palm Warbler	26
Golden-w. Warbler	11	Ovenbird	157
Blue-w. Warbler	66	Nor. Waterthrush	19
Tennessee Warbler	21	*La. Waterthrush	1 (24)
Orange-cr. Warbler	3 (9,15)	Mourning Warbler	28
Nashville Warbler	79	Yellowthroat	413
Parula Warbler	5	Yellow-br. Chat	11
Yellow Warbler	2201	Hooded Warbler	24
Magnolia Warbler	218	Wilson's Warbler	127
Cape May Warbler	20	Canada Warbler	131
Bl.-thr. Bl. Warbler	49	Amer. Redstart	416
Myrtle Warbler	259		

House Sparrows - Fringillids:

House Sparrow	5548	Red Crossbill	4 (11)
Bobolink	924	White-w. Crossbill	1 (27)
Eastern Meadowlark	1006	Rufous-s. Towhee	580
Western Meadowlark	2 (6,7)	Savannah Sparrow	258
Red-w. Blackbird	12,224	Grasshopper Sparrow	7
Baltimore Oriole	1132	Henslow's Sparrow	7
Rusty Blackbird	108	Vesper Sparrow	111
Common Grackle	10,967	Slate-col. Junco	162
Brown-h. Cowbird	2810	Chipping Sparrow	1293
Scarlet Tanager	195	Field Sparrow	417
Cardinal	456	<u>Harris' Sparrow</u>	1 (4)
Rose-br. Grosbeak	320	Wh.-cr. Sparrow	144
Indigo Bunting	99	Wh.-thr. Sparrow	86
Evening Grosbeak	2 (14,25)	Fox Sparrow	15
Purple Finch	133	Lincoln's Sparrow	4 (18,26)
Pine Siskin	465	Swamp Sparrow	305
Amer. Goldfinch	4426	Song Sparrow	2886

Miscellaneous: unidentified ducks, 34; unidentified shorebirds, 22; unidentified hawks; 5 unidentified flycatchers, 12.

GRAND TOTAL: 209 species; 114,000 individuals.

Sectional Divisions and Observers: The following divisions are those defined by the map "Sectional Divisions of the Territory of the Buffalo Ornithological Society" (1956). The list gives the number of each division and the name of a place in that division. Underlined names denote the individuals or group responsible for the coverage of each division. One section was not covered, but a total of 230 observers covered the other sections.

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Fonthill, Ont.      | - <u>Walter and Harriette Klabunde</u>  |
| 2. Thorold, Ont.       | - <u>Clarence Rote</u>  |
| 3. Wilson, N. Y.       | - <u>Shell and Elsie Merritt</u> , Flossie Lortz                                  |
| 4. Middleport, N. Y.   | - <u>John and Mabel Lehrer</u>  |
| 5. Oak Orchard, N. Y.  | - <u>Ed Seeber</u> , Richard Beebe, Gail Seamans                                  |
| 6. Port Maitland, Ont. | - <u>Mary Louise Emerson</u> , Marjorie Emerson, John Filer, Robert Wagner        |
| 7. Lowbanks, Ont.      | - <u>Harold Mitchell</u> , Dr. and Mrs. White, Robert Rybczynski, Gregory Swiatek |

8. Fort Erie, Ont. -Paul Benham, Harold and Rachel Axtell,  
George and Mary Elizabeth Letchworth,  
Frank Folemsbee
9. Grand Island, N. Y. -Alice and Bill McKale
10. Akron, N. Y. -Ed and Alice Ulrich, Mr. and Mrs. Adams,  
Janice Fischer, Virginia Miller
11. Buffalo, N. Y. -Arthur Freitag, Mr. Booth, Mr. Kikta
12. Lancaster, N. Y. -Gertrude Webster and Marie Wendling,  
Margaret Wendling, Peg Schafer, Dorothy  
Danner, Mr. Wolfling, Charles and Ruth  
Joudry, Bill Schwenger, Mr. Karlak, Mr.  
and Mrs. Carl Forsberg
13. Batavia, N. Y. -Mrs. Pixley, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Annabel,  
George Buckland, Mr. and Mrs. Max Mason,  
George Mahaney, Don Taurau, David Thompson,  
R. M. Pixley, Harold and Barbara Dodge
14. Hamburg, N. Y. -Lynn Rochester, Mrs. James Creighton, Mr.  
and Mrs. Myles Firey, Mrs. Bartlett  
Ramsdell, Mrs. Isadore Dilinio, Mrs.  
William Pruss, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Laomis,  
Dr. and Mrs. William Leonard, Mrs. and Mrs.  
Bacon, Mr. and Mrs. Mauser, Mr. and Mrs.  
Bonser, Mr. Fales, Dr. and Mrs. Liston,  
Eric Laomis, Steve Weller, Mr. and Mrs.  
Bigelow, Mr. and Mrs. Matlock
15. Java, N. Y. -Mrs. Sissler, Lena Turner, Thomas and  
Emma Nelson, Elmer and Esther Becker,  
Florence and Raymond Becker, Lincoln and  
Marion Crone
16. Angola, N. Y. -Thomas Bourne, Dr. Andrle
17. Cattaraugus, N. Y. -Fred Hall and family
18. Delevan, N. Y. -Richard Freitag, Paul Nevergold, Donald  
Clark
19. Fillmore, N. Y. -Katherine Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Mr.  
and Mrs. Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford, Mr.  
and Mrs. Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. Hooper,  
Margaret Hodnett, Ada Mills, Helen Hubbard,  
Larry Wilson
20. Dunkirk, N. Y. -not covered
21. Cherry Creek, N. Y. -Jamestown Audubon Society, Gustavus  
Bentley, Jack and Dan Gulvin, Alta Moon,  
Jennie and Calla Freeman, Flor Elderlsin,  
Hope Peckham, Florence Hollister, O. G.  
Burgeson, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Hoag, Dr.  
Lewis Kibler, Laura Waterman
22. Sherman, N. Y. -Elizabeth Pillsbury, Archie Richardson,  
Ora Swanson, Nina Bates, Lois Buck
23. Frewsburg, N. Y. -Jamestown Audubon Society, Robert Sandell,  
Ramon Jordan, Annabelle Hiller, Ruth Ahrens,  
Geraldine Caswell, William Mealy, Douglas  
Pillsbury, Bill Gulvin, Archie Richardson,  
Elizabeth Pillsbury
24. Allegany State Park -David Thompson, Walter Griffiths
25. Allegany, N. Y. -Cattaraugus County Bird Study Club, Neil  
Saylor, and others



26. Cuba Lake, N. Y.

-Allegany County Bird Club, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Burton, Joanna Burger, Richard Brownstein, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Keople, Mrs. Guy Ingalls and family, Mr. and Mrs. Oren Smith, Alice Driskell, Mrs. James Zuver, Mrs. Frank Resch, Mrs. Neil Wilson, Mrs. Cyril Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Barret

27. Bolivar, N. Y.

-Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Smith, Theodore Vossler, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Richmond, Lillian Siruous, Louise Jacoby, Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Mrs. McGrath, Mr. and Mrs. Keople, Mr. and Mrs. Carrier, Mr. and Mrs. J. Carrier and family, Mrs. Sherman Childs, Mrs. Celedia Abbott, Mrs. Gross and family, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Burdick

28. Alfred, N. Y.

-Edwin and Edith Olmstead, Peter and Terry Finlay, Gaylord Rough, Harold Snyder, Mildred Schozoleff, Ann Eisenhardt, Eddy and Alice Foster, L. Deverell, C. Klingensmith, Helen Thomas, Eva Ford, Elizabeth Brooks, Lou and Doris Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burdick, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Coats, Mary Alice Fuller, Olive Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Pitsrich, Mrs. Reynolds and family, Minnie Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Vossler, Mr. Dana Young, Mrs. Neil Bernard, Mrs. Woodworth, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore McClure

Comments and Comparisons: The following comments given by the observers describe the day: "As a rule, May 21 is about the peak of the migration period here: today, however, made one think of "Silent Spring". When birds are not in song, they are very hard to locate. Not one Red-eyed Vireo was singing. The insectivorous species were silent, as a rule: these were probably more numerous than the count would indicate: we can only surmise that the birds were too busy trying to find something to eat ---there was no time or desire to sing." (Tom Bourne); "Although the day was cold and warblers and other small birds were not appearing readily, this list - 119 species and two hybrids in the area - is one of the largest." (Ed Seeber); "A dozen areas where we usually find a number of warblers, thrush and flycatchers were completely still - small marsh areas were also quite bare of bird life." (Harriette Klabunde); "not much song or action" (Mrs. Pixley); "We ran into a Kingbird migration in our territory - once 15 were on a plowed field; also, I never saw so many Goldfinches in my life. They were everywhere and in great flocks - at one time we estimated 100." (Marie Wendling); "Very little migrant activity noted - all the birds observed breed here." (Dave Thompson)

In spite of the quietness recorded in many territories, this count was the largest, not only in the number of individuals, but also in the number of species. This was not due to a fabulous migration day, although certain species like the Kingbirds and Goldfinches were definitely moving through in large numbers. The record count is probably due in part to the fact that it was a week later than most previous counts. Also there were thirty more observers in the field than ever before. Thanks must go to all



who participated.

A surprising number of species not only had the highest totals for the past eleven years, but were actually double or better the previous high totals. These were: Common Loon, Whistling Swan, Gadwall, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Common Tern, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Wilson's Warbler, Pine Siskin, and American Goldfinch. Birds with the highest totals, but not double the highest, for the past eleven years are: Gr. Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, American Coot, Gr. Black-b. Gull, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, Crow, Black-c. Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, House Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellowthr. Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Bobolink, Baltimore Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Many other species were above average for the past eleven years yet compared very closely with last year when almost as many observers were in the field. The few species that were below average are: Black-crowned Night Heron, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Ruddy Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Common Night Hawk, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Solitary Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Orchard Oriole, Indigo Bunting, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

#### BONAPARTE'S GULL PROJECT - CORRECTION

The authors of the article entitled Bonaparte's Gull Project, which appeared in the May issue of the Prothonotary, have requested that the following paragraph, which appears on page 80, be reprinted in its unedited form, to clear up any confusion that may have existed as to the authors' meaning.

The high concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Great Lakes as reported in the Audubon Christmas Counts provide interesting data relative to their southbound migratory movement (fig 1.) It is obvious from the large number of gulls in the Niagara Frontier region at this time of year that this area is a funnel-point for the species. But this fact stands alone. Three theories are presently being considered relative to the fall migratory route of the Bonaparte's Gull through the Niagara Frontier:

1. A direct west-to-east route across the State to the Atlantic Ocean.
2. A St. Lawrence River route to the Atlantic Ocean followed by a coastal movement southward.
3. A route westward to the Cleveland-Toledo area and a southward movement from that area (presumably down the Mississippi Valley to wintering areas primarily south of continental U.S.).



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

No meetings are scheduled for the month of August.

September 13 - Summer birding experiences of members.

September 27 - Rare birds and other slides from collection of Dr. Robert Andrle.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

August 6 - Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. Meet 6:30 A.M. at the Corner of Main Street and Kensington Avenue. Leader, Marie Wendling (NF2-6625).

August 27 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Shorebirds. Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peach Bridge at 7:00 A.M. Leader, Edward Seeber (TT3-2291).

September 2-3 - Fall Pymatuning Weekend. Contact Wayne Stumm for details (TA3-3132).

September 10 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Warblers and Shorebirds. Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 7:30 A.M. Leader Richard Byron.

September 15-17 - Hawk Watch at St. Thomas, Ontario. Leaders, Walter and Hariette Klabunde (PL4-4424). Contact the leaders if you are planning to go.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Ave., Kenmore, New York 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York 14092.

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, N. Y. 14301





71  
096



# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 33

JULY 1967

Number 7

## THE MONTH

June was the hottest month in the history of the Buffalo Weather Bureau, the average temperature for the month being 72.5, which is 7.7 degrees above the long-range mean. Precipitation measured 2.5 inches, which is practically normal. The most unusual observations were the Cattle Egret and the variety of shorebirds in late June.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.



Vol. 33, No. 7 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Horned Grebe	June	3	2 Allegany State Park	Sundell, et al
*Common Egret	"	2	1 Allegheny Reservoir	Sundell
Snowy Egret	"	3	1 Port Colborne, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
B.-cr. Night Heron	"	11	3 South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Least Bittern	"	17	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Rybczynski,
	"			Grzybowski
	"	20	1 Langford	Bourne
Cattle Egret	"	14	1 Oak Orchard	Seeber, Zuris
Cattle Egret	"	18	1 Iroquois NWR	Benhams
Mute Swan	"	23	3 So. Cayuga, Ont.	Seeber, Zuris
Gadwall	"	23	2 Castaday Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Pintail	"	17	1 Iroquois NWR	Grzybowski,
				Rybczynski
	"	23, 28	1, 1 Castaday Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	29	3 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski,
				Rybczynski
Green-w. Teal	"	3	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Benham
	"	5	2 Iroquois NWR	Grzybowski
	"	20	3 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Hess
Shoveler	"	5	1 Iroquois NWR	Grzybowski et al
	"	14	2 Cheektowaga	Grzybowski
	"	17	1 Iroquois NWR	Grzybowski,
				Rybczynski
Lesser Scaup	"	3	7 Canadian Shore, L.Erie	Grzybowski, Benham
	"	8	1 Reeb's Bay, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	23	1 Featherstone Point, Ont.	Grzybowski,
				Rybczynski
White-w. Scoter	June	10	1 Allegheny Reservoir	Sundell, Richardson
Common Merganser	"	18, 19	1, 1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Hess
	"	23, 28	8, 14 Castaday Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	23	8 Featherstone Pt., Ont.	Grzybowski,
				Rybczynski
Red-cr. Merganser	"	2	8 Allegheny Reservoir	Sundell
	"	20	12 Barcelona	Sundell
	"	28	1 Point Abino, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	29	3 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Brown-
				stein
Broad-wing. Hawk	"	1	1 Chestnut Ridge Park	Freitags
	"	10	1 Carrollton	Rybczynski et al
Turkey	"	10	5 Allegany State Park	Rybczynski et al
Virginia Rail	"	14	1 Eden	Bourne
Whimbrel	June	3L	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Benham
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	28	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Knot	"	4L	1 Port Colborne, Ont.	Kikta
W.-rump. Sandpiper	"	23	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Rybczynski,
				Grzybowski
	June	28L	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
Least Sandpiper	"	3	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Benham
Dunlin	"	8L	6 Canadian Shore, L.Erie	Grzybowski et al
Semi-palm. Sandpiper	"	8	210 Canadian Shore, L.Erie	Grzybowski
	"	28	4 Morgan's and Castaday	
			Points, Ont.	Grzybowski
Sanderling	"	8L	3 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski



Vol. 33, No. 7 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Gr.Black-b.Gull	June	23	47	Canadian Shore, L.Erie	Grzybowski, (maximum count for the month) Rybczynski
Bonaparte's Gull	"	3-29	20-80	Canadian Shore, L.Erie	Grzybowski et al
Caspian Tern	"	8	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
	"	17,21	1,1	Barcelona	Sundell
	"	23	1	South Cayuga, Ont.	Seeber, Zuris
Whip-poor-will	"	3	1	Hamburg	Bourne
	"	24	1	Batavia	Buckland
Pileated Wdpkr.	"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Kikta
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	"	26	1	Batavia	Buckland
Olive-s. Flycatcher	"	1L	1	New Oregon	Bourne
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	24	1	East Concord	Rybczynski et al
	"	3	1	McCarty Hill	Sundell et al
Brown Creeper	"	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Andrle, Wright
	"	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Grzybowski
	"	10	1	Allegany State Park	Grzybowski et al
Carolina Wren	"	1-30	2	Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
	"	8	1	Abino Hills, Ont.	Grzybowski
Short-b. Marsh Wren	"	1	1	Langford	Bourne
	"	14	1	Eden	Bourne
	"	17	1	Tonawanda GMA	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
	"	18	1	Tonawanda GMA	Benham
Mockingbird	"	1	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Freitags
	"	18,19	1,1	Pendleton	Gampp
Golden-cr. Kinglet	June	3	2	Iroquois NWR	Andrle, Wright
Philadelphia Vireo	"	2L	1	Athol Springs	Bourne
Prothonotary Warb.	"	17	1	Oak Orchard Swamp	Grzybowski
	"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Kikta
*"Brewster's Warbler"	"	3	1	Allegany	Sundell et al
Tennessee Warbler	"	3L	2	Iroquois NWR	Andrle, Wright
Blackburnian Warb.	"	7L	1	Buffalo	Hess
Blackpoll Warbler	"	3L	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Benham
	"	3L	3	Iroquois NWR	Andrle, Wright
La. Waterthrush	"	1	1	Langford	Bourne
	"	10	4	Allegany State Park	Grzybowski et al
Yellow-br. Chat	"	7	1	Cherry Creek	Kikta
	"	10	1	Allegany	Grzybowski
	"	20	1	Deer Lick Sanctuary	Andrle, Thill
Western Meadowlark	"	3,8	1,1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Red Crossbill	June	18	1	Jamestown	Beal
Wh.-thr. Sparrow	June	10	1	Allegany State Park	Grzybowski, Rybczynski et al
	June	15	1	Allegany State Park	Seeber, Zuris

Species and subspecies previously recorded: 257  
 Additional species and subspecies recorded in this issue: 2  
 Total for 1967: 259

WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

by Joanna Burger

The forty-eighth annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society convened at the Crawford House in Crawford Notch, New Hampshire, on June 15th, 1967. An informal reception and social hour was followed by a field trip to the nearby mountains to hear the evening thrush chorus.

The papers sessions began Friday morning with one entitled "The Bird Life of the White Mountain Region of New Hampshire." This introduction, plus the N.H. Audubon's special bulletin, Brief Guide to the Natural History of the White Mountains, amply prepared the members for the short walks and mountain hikes all birders somehow slip in between the paper sessions.

The second paper session included such varied topics as "The use of Marginal Breeding Areas by Laughing Gulls," "Nesting Studies of the Green Heron in Mexico," and "Courtship Feeding in the Eastern Bluebird." Ian McLaren (Dalhousie University) reported on "The Current Status of the Ipswich Sparrow on Sable Island." Sable Island, located 60 miles off Nova Scotia in the Atlantic Ocean, is a desolate, treeless stretch of sand dunes destined for extinction due to continued erosion. The Ipswich Sparrow (Passerculus princeps), a large, pale-grey version of the Savannah Sparrow (P. sandwichensis) breeds only on Sable Island. McLaren is studying the population changes and breeding biology of the Sparrow. His findings indicate that the Ipswich Sparrow is not decreasing in numbers. It affords an excellent opportunity since the entire population can be found in one small, natural laboratory.

Chandler Robbins further explained his Breeding Bird Survey. He answered a query about differing abilities of observers with the comment that one route had been run several times by observers with varying abilities and he found that all observers came within 5 species of par for the entire route.

Friday evening G. Stuart Keith presented his film, Sights and Sounds of the African Wild.

Saturday's paper sessions were devoted to a symposium on "Nocturnal Migration and Orientation" chaired by William H. Gunn of the Canadian Wildlife Service. This symposium proved most interesting and informative.

Frank Bellrose (Ill. Natural His. Sur.) opened the symposium with a paper on the "Physical Natural of Bird Migration." Diurnal migrants use landscape clues and nocturnal migrants use celestial as well as landscape clues. However, as Bellrose pointed out, since birds migrate when neither clue is visible, other clues are also used.

"Orientation of Nocturnal Migration over New Jersey," presented by Jeff Swinebroad (Rutgers) was especially interesting. Using radar, he determined that there are two tracks migrants follow over New Jersey in the fall (fig 1 and 2). Note that he found migrants re-orient after coming over land. Figure 1 represents mostly passerines, figure 2 represents shorebirds.



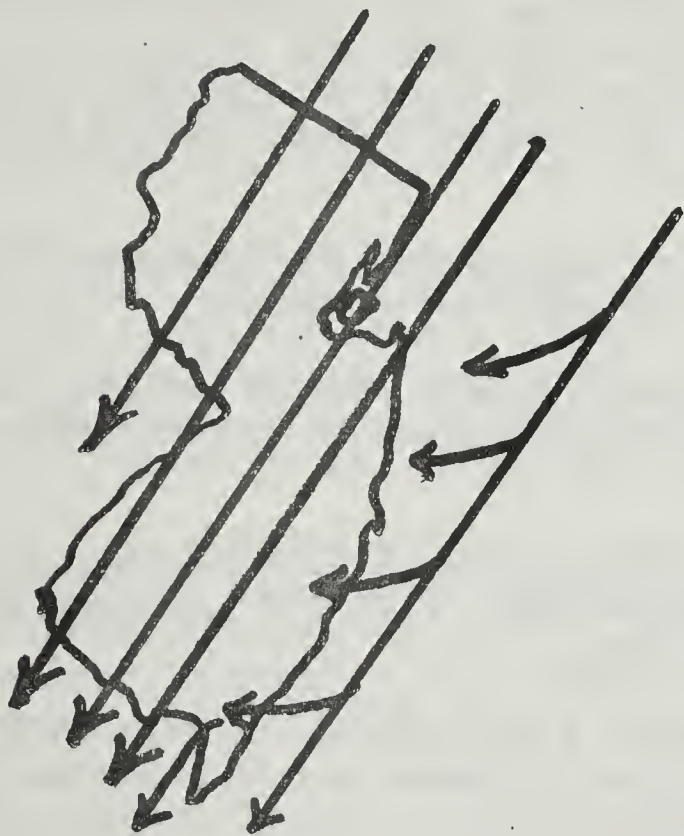


Fig 1

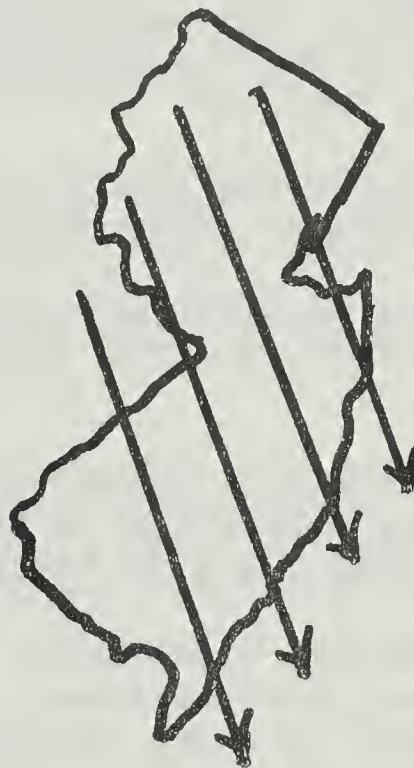


Fig 2

W. John Richardson (McMaster University) reported on "Radar Studies of Bird Movement in Canada." A computer is used to study the various components of migration: date, start, peaks, species where known, volume, and average direction. Their study has shown April and September to be the strongest migration months. He further reported on the study of Whistling Swans on Lake Erie. The Swans are being color marked as well as radar tracked. They have not found any correlation between migratory movement and temperature changes, wind speed, cloud cover or other weather components. Their migratory ground speed seems to be relatively constant; they apparently adjust their air speed to compensate for wind velocity. Birders in our area should especially note movements of all swans in addition to the marked individuals, and report all information to him (Department of Biology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario).

Sidney Gauthreaux, (L.S.U.) pointed out the necessity of simultaneous viewing by telescope and radar. Observed movements by telescope can lead to the identification of species by radar patterns.

Aerial Telemetric studies were reported by William Cochran (Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv.). Telemetric studies involve inserting a radio transmitter under the bird's feathers. The signal can then be picked up with electronic equipment. From an airplane, birds in flight could be located and tracked from distances up to 20 miles; the same bird could be tracked only up to 15 miles by a tracking vehicle on the ground. Even though a signal from a bird in flight may be picked up as far as 20 miles away, if that same bird lands, its signal can be picked up only as far as  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile away.

Pigeons are being used by several researchers in homing studies. Using trained pigeons, Charles Walcott (Tufts U.) tested their abilities under differing environmental conditions. Winds did not cause deviations, thus the pigeons were compensating for cross winds. He did find that the visibility



of the sun made a difference. If the bird was over 15 miles from the loft (the visibility limit) and the sun was not visible, the pigeons would sit until it was visible. Pigeons trained to home from one locality, and released in another seemed to use a combination of compass sense, navigation and landmarks to return to the loft.

Other tactics in the study of bird migration were discussed, including the use of planetariums and specially constructed chambers.

The symposium provided an excellent capsule view of current research and thinking in the field. Gunn is to be congratulated on his varied choice of members.

The banquet Saturday night was a success with Olin Pettingill as toastmaster. Aaron Bagg's President's Address dealt with the problems of mass spraying in the timberlands of Maine.

En masse, members vicariously spent a delightful "summer on Jenny Lind Island" with George Miksch Sutton. In his original and captivating prose he described his summer of study and painting in his beloved northern Canada.

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#### PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

September 13 - Summer birding experiences of members.

September 27 - Rare birds and other slides from collection of Dr. Robert Andrl

#### PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

August 27 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Shorebirds. Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 7:00 A.M. Leader, Edward Seeber (TT3-2291).

Septembem 2-3 - Fall Pymatuning Weekend. Contact Wayne Stumm for details (TA3-3132).

September 10 - Canadian Shore of Lake Erie for Warblers and Shorebirds. Meet at the Vermont Street entrance to the Peace Bridge at 7:30 A.M. Leader Richard Byron.

September 15-17 - Hawk Watch at St. Thomas, Ontario. Leaders, Walter and Hariette Klabunde (PL4-4424). Contact the leaders if you are planning to go.

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Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217.



## SECTIONAL DIVISION #7 - B.O.S. STUDY AREA

The B.O.S. study area is one of low elevation and, in places, sandy soils. It is quite flat with only a few low, rolling hills. There is considerable farming, leaving only perhaps 15% of the land wooded. The forests are generally deciduous, some quite wet, with few stands of hemlock or pine, except for the Jack Pine stands along the lake.

The special features include: (1) the extensive Lake Erie shore line with long sandy beaches and rocky points underlaid by coral from the Devonian Period, laid down in parallel ridges, thus forming these points which jut into the lake. Extensive sand dunes occur in places, and such plant communities as Jack Pines - as at Sugar Loaf - and Cedar woods - as at Morgan's Point - are unique to the blown sand areas.

(2) The Wainfleet Marsh - undoubtedly the most extensive peaty area around and one of the most extensive wetland areas in the B.O.S. study area. It is generally an area of shallow standing water, somewhat dry in autumn, with a wetland succession at different stages throughout, having considerable low deciduous brush at the present time. Some of it has been drained for muck farming.

(3) The extensive marshes, difficult of access and little explored, that line the Grand River (parts of these are in Sectional Division 6). Unfortunately, much of the most accessible portions has been adapted for industrial waste dumpage and, for ornithological purposes, ruined.

There are events of interest throughout the year. Spring migrants on some days pile up along the shore areas, especially filtering out along the points. Migrants of many kinds are found in the autumn too, and the Lake Shore areas here provide among our best shorebird areas in those places not excessively overrun by humans.

Back from the lake it is less well-known ornithologically, but rich, moist woodlands abound, and such spots as Mud Lake have produced rewarding bird records.

Certain additions and corrections to the map should be noted. In the Wainfleet Marsh, Wilson Rd. actually is continued across, with a jog in the middle. The road at F-19, which apparently ends at the bog, extends south and meets Con Rd. 2, which now extends eastward to meet it at H-19. There the north-south road bends a little and then continues southward to meet Highway #3 just west of Side Rd. #8 (Neff Rd.). This road across the bog is Wilson Road.

Other significant roads not named or otherwise identified on the map are Bird Road, Hendershot Road, Jerry Jump Rd., Booker Road, Zion Rd. and Flanagan Rd. Bird Rd. is a long one which extends from Robinson Rd. at F-4 southeastward to Lake Shore Rd. at K-12. Hendershot Road leaves Diltz Rd. at the railroad track at D-6 and goes eastward through Franconia, to North Canal Rd. at I-10. Zion Rd. leaves Con Rd. at C-10 and proceeds generally southward to Highway #3 where its name changes to Flanagan Rd. as it goes in to the feeder canal. Jenny Jump runs east-north-eastward from Bird Road at H-7 to meet Flanagan Rd. at F-11. Hardly more than a wagon track in places, it runs through good second growth woods. Booker Rd. parallels Jenny Jump one road south. Still one more south is Poth Road, which is impassable between Bird Rd. and Hendershot.

Sectional Division #7 (cont.)

Virtually all the roads identified by numbers on the map actually have names, but are sufficiently identifiable by these map designations.

Coordinates

G-23. Mud Lake. A good small marsh, formed by impounded waters originally intended to supply the Welland Canal, but now extensively overgrown by cattails.

F to I-19. Wilson Road. Along this road the birds of the Wainfleet Marsh are most accessible. Snipe, Ducks, Marsh Hawks, Short-eared Owls and others are found throughout much of the year. Lincoln's Sparrows formerly bred nearby.

K-8 to E-20. Feeder Canal (now disused). Various marsh and water birds occasionally are found here.

J-22. Port Colborne Harbour (Gravelly Bay). Numerous water birds stop here in migration. Common Terns and Ring-billed Gulls breed out near the breakwall. Shore birds sometimes abound in the marshy edges.

K-22. Sugarloaf Point. The shore is good for gulls and sandpipers. The pines often attract migrating land birds.

J-21. Camelot Beach. A few shore birds can be found. Sometimes ducks can be seen off shore. Formerly it was more attractive to land birds than in recent years.

J-20. Rathfon Point. A shorebird area of lesser note. Western Meadowlarks have been found nearby.

J, K-19. Gravel Bay. Occasionally attracts hordes of waterfowl. A sewer outlet along the west side is often the locale of shore birds of many types.

L-18. Morgan's Point. A long point extending into Lake Erie, this has been perhaps the best birding place in our whole study area. The point attracts water and shore birds - many rarities have been noted.

The pines and grape tangles near the point were about the best area for warblers and other small land birds we had. The grape tangles were all removed recently and the amount of bird life became drastically reduced.

K-18. Morgan's Point Woods. A beautiful woodlot with much cedar. Many birds have been found here, including rarities such as Bewick's Wren and Worm-eating Warbler.

K-16, 17. Grabell Point. A lesser point with occasional good shore birding.

J, K-15, 16. Long Beach. One of our most extensive sand beaches. When not overrun with humans, it can produce good birding.

K-14. Long Beach Point (Willow Point). Occasionally attracts shore birds and others. A low reef offshore is sometimes emergent, with many gulls, terns, ducks, etc., resting there. A private park has been



Sectional Division #7 (cont.)

made here, completely eliminating the habitat where Wilson's Phalaropes once nested.

- J-14. Long Beach Woods. Next to Side Rd. #30, just south of the railroad. One of the few woodlots with hemlocks. Barred Owls and certain northern birds often nest here. A good place to check for winter birds or during migration.
- K-12, 13, 14. Lowbanks. An extensive shore area with the road right next to it. Easy to observe, but often unrewarding.
- M-11. Mohawk Point. An extensive point attracting generally fewer water and shore birds than others. A good place to find Orchard Orioles. The bushy areas are sometimes good for warblers.
- L-9, 10. The dirt cliffs. An extensive area. Here are always hundreds of Bank Swallows' burrows. Toward the western end are good coves for shore birds, and waterfowl often rest nearby in numbers.
- M-8. Rockhouse Point (perhaps this is in Terr. #6). Sometimes a fabulously productive birding area. Shorebirds accumulate along the rocky shore edge and land birds sometimes pack in along the wooded tangles. The establishment of a provincial park here has, so far, been very detrimental to bird finding and the area is ornithologically poorer than formerly.
- L-8. Base of Rockhouse. Varied woods, wet in places. Sometimes very attractive to migrants.
- L-7. Port Mortland. The port proper is west of the Grand River. Occasionally, interesting water birds appear here. Orchard Orioles can generally be found in the vicinity.
- K-7. Lower Grand River Marsh near Stromness. Formerly a very productive marshland. Now utterly ruined through use for dumping industrial waste.
- J-8. Stromness Marsh. A good productive marsh area. Unfortunately, it is now accessible only by hiking a mile just to get to the better areas.
- J-8. The Goose Pond. A wet area adjacent to a farm house with domestic geese. Surprisingly, it often attracts wild ducks and interesting shorebirds.
- I, J-5,6,7. Grand River Marshes. Extensive marshes. Difficult of access and little covered, these are among the challenging areas for future exploration. A most likely place to find Sharp-tailed and LeConte's Sparrows, among other rarities in migration.
- D-16. Heronry near Chamber's Corners. Turn left off Highway 3A along Con Rd. #5 (Willford Rd.). About 100 yards (2 farm houses) west is a road running north which deteriorates, becoming impassible for driving beyond the railroad tracks. The woodlot to the west, beyond the tracks, contains a nesting colony of Great Blue Herons. It is a very wet woods, mosquito-filled in season, with good birding possi-

Sectional Division #7 (cont.)

bilities - especially for birds of Carolinian affinities.

D-12 to 16. Woods along Con Rd. 5. There are a number of rich wet woods along this road. They should all be better explored. Apparently they consist of completely deciduous trees. Many other good-appearing woodlots - several are between here and the Welland River - are currently uninvestigated so far as I know.

B-11 down to B-23. Welland River. The river looks good and has marshy areas along its banks. I have never seen many birds there.

B-2 to B-11. Talbot Road. Runs through typical farm country. Hungarian Partridges have been seen here.

B-9, 10. Ponds near the Welland River. North of Route #57 are 2 extensive ponds. They appear to be areas which would attract migrating waterfowl.

M-9. Gull Island. A breeding area for gulls and terns. Ducks and a variety of shore birds have also been found here. Accessible only by boat.

G-10. Jenny Jump Road )

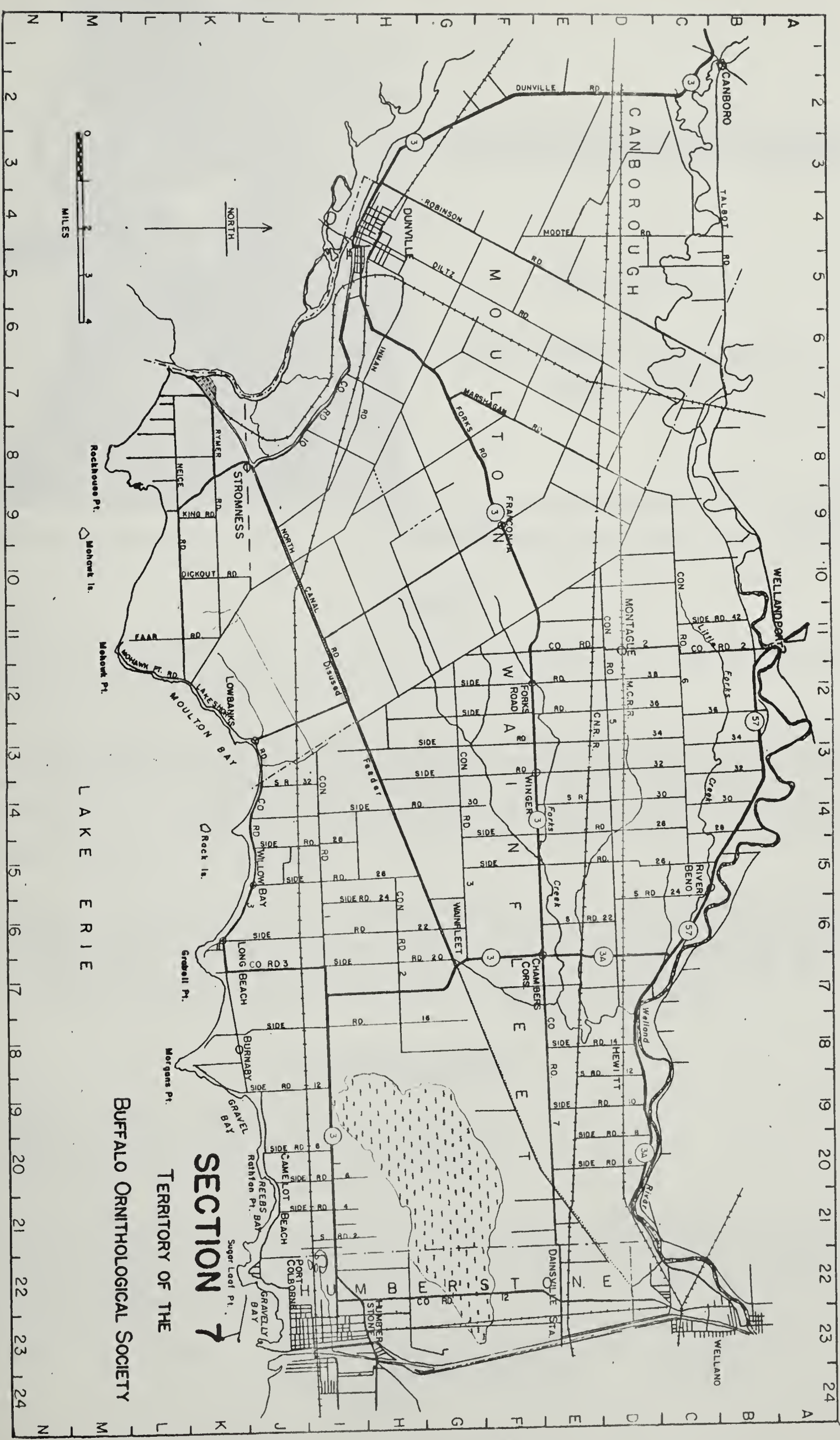
H-7,8. Bird Road ) Good wooded areas where the soil is sandier than in

J-10. Dickout Road ) other places. These are among the better of these woods. Often they are attractive during migration.

E. L. Seeber



Joins 1



Joins 8





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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

OUT 1967

VOLUME 33

AUGUST 1967

NUMBER 8

## THE MONTH

The average temperature in July was 1.4 degrees above the mean; precipitation was 1.57 inches, which is one inch below normal. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

In late June and July of this year, there were more records than ever before of shorebirds during the period between previous late spring dates and dates presumed to represent the beginning of their return from the breeding grounds. Also during July, several species were reported in near-record numbers. The most unusual species was the Ruff, apparently an adult female, the ovaries measuring 10 x 3 mm.

Owing to an omission during the processing of the May records, the 108 Knots counted on the 28th is not the largest number ever recorded here as stated in THE MONTH. A still larger number was seen by Paul Benham, who reported 131 Knots along the Canadian Shore on the previous day, May 27. Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Egret	July	8	1 Beaver Meadow, Java	Webster et al
	"	19	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Benham



Vol. 33, No. 8 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

B.-cr. Night Heron	July	8	2 Oak Orchard GMA	Buckland et al
"	"	22	3 Tifft St. Marsh, Bflo.	Kikta, Rybczynski
Least Bittern	"	22	2 Tifft St. Marsh, Bflo.	Kikta, Rybczynski
<u>Mute Swan</u>	"	1	3 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham, Grzybowski, Rybczynski et al
Pintail	"	1-31	1-7 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein
"	"	30	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Hess, Freitag
Green-w. Teal	"	1,8	2,3 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham
Oldsquaw	July	7	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitag
Common Merganser	"	1-25	6-25 Canadian Shore L.Erie	several observers
Red-br. Merganser	"	11-25	1-6 Canadian Shore L.Erie	Grzybowski et al
Turkey Vulture	"	29	1 Dunnville, Ont.	Burger et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	18	1 Elma	Hess et al
Broad-winged Hawk	"	22	1 Allenberg Bog	Mitchell et al
Ruffed Grouse	"	5	1 Iroquois NWR	Freitag
Semipalm. Plover	"	11F	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
"	"	16	5 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger et al
Black-bell. Plover	July	1	1 Rathfon Point, Ont.	Benham, Rybczynski et al
Ruddy Turnstone	July	1	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	July	8	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	July	11	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	"	25	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
"	"	29	2 Rose Hill, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Solitary Sandpiper	"	16F	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger et al
"	"	24	2 Lancaster	Grzybowski
"	"	25	2 Canadian Shore L.Erie	Rybczynski, Grzybowski
Greater Yellowlegs	July	8F	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
"	July	8F	1 Lorraine, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
"	"	19	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitags
"	"	29	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Brownstein
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	1	2 Rathfon Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Salisbury
"	"	25	390 Canadian Shore L.Erie	Brownstein et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	"	11F	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
"	"	12	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Benham
"	"	25	65 Canadian Shore L.Erie	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
W.-rump. Sandpiper	July	11	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
"	"	30	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Hess, Freitag
*Baird's Sandpiper	July	22F	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	July	25	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Rybczynski, Salisbury (Specimen collected by Salisbury)
Least Sandpiper	"	1	1 Rathfon Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
"	"	11	165 Canadian Shore L.Erie	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
Dunlin	July	1	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
"	July	1	1 Castaday Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
"	July	26	1 Rathfon Point, Ont.	Andrle
"	July	29	1 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Benham, Bybczynski et al
"	July	30	1 Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Freitag et al
Short-b. Dowitcher	July	4F	7 Canadian Shore L.Erie	Grzybowski et al
"	"	8	4 Canadian Shore L.Erie	Grzybowski et al
"	"	25	70 Canadian Shore L.Erie	Grzybowski et al
*Stilt Sandpiper	July	8F	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham, Rybczynski
"	July	11	4 Grant Point, Ont.	Rybczynski, Grzybowski
"	"	16	15 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger et al



Semipalm. Sandpiper	July	8	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski
"	"	29	1522 Canadian Shore L.Erie	Burger, Brownstein
*Western Sandpiper	July	8	1 Lorraine, Ont.	Rybczynski, Benham et al
	July	8	1 Castaday Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	July	11	3 Lorraine, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
	July	15	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
	July	16	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	19	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Freitags
	"	25	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Rybczynski
*Ruff	"	26	1 Rathfon Point, Ont.	Andrle
			(specimen collected)	
Sanderling	July	1	1 Rathfon Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	July	8	1 Rathfon Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Rybczynski et al
	"	16	5 Long Beach, Ont.	Hess
	"	17	4 Long Beach, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
*Wilson's Phalarope	July	15F	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham, Rybczynski et al
	July	15F	1 Rathfon Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
	July	16	1 Rathfon Point, Ont.	Grzybowski, Brownstein
	"	22	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham
	"	22, 25	1, 1 Rathfon Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Bonaparte's Gull	"	15	170 Fort Erie to Rose Hill, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Little Gull	July	22	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Brownstein, Grzybowski, Rybczynski et al
	July	29	1 Rose Hill, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
Caspian Tern	"	1	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	25	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Salisbury
	"	29	2 Grant Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
Long-eared Owl	"	29	1 Alfred	Klingensmith
Whip-poor-will	"	27	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Brown Creeper	"	1	1 Chambers Corners, Ont.	Grzybowski, Benham
Winter Wren	"	8	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Buckland et al
Carolina Wren	"	1-31	1-2 Erie Beach, Ont.	several observers
			(bird observed feeding Cowbird by Freitag on 19th.)	
Mockingbird	"	20	1 Burt	Thill
Myrtle Warbler	July	3	2 McCarty Hill	Andrle, Thill
			(singing males)	
	July	25	4 Alfred	Klingensmith
			(two pairs in red pine plantation)	
Northern Waterthrush	"	31F	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Brownstein, Salisbury
Orchard Oriole	"	1	1 Port Colborne, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
	"	1	1 Mohawk Point, Ont.	Grzybowski et al
Henslow's Sparrow	"	27	21 Lancaster	Grzybowski

Species and subspecies previously recorded:  
 Additional species, subspecies and named hybrids  
 recorded in this issue:  
 Total for 1967:

259

$$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ \hline 264 \end{array}$$

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

TRIP TO MONTEZUMA WILDLIFE REFUGE - August 6, 1967

On August 6, The B.O.S. joined Alice Ulrich's spring semester class in ornithology for a trip to the Montezuma Wildlife Sanctuary - twenty-four birders in all, including the welcome guests of the day, Mr. and Mrs. George North of Hamilton. The day was beautiful, sunny and clear, with enough of a breeze to make the temperature in the mid-80's endurable. Pink mallow and yellow wild artichoke were at their early best, but the scene was often dominated by shoulder-high burdocks and thistles in colorful bloom, enhanced by a flock of undulating Goldfinches.

In the big pond just beyond the entrance, the water was so low that it was difficult to identify the shorebirds off on the sand bars, where Canada Geese, Mallards, Black Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon were in some numbers, as well as one Redhead, one Shoveler, and several Gadwall. Two swans, one Mute and one Whistling, provided interest along with three American Egrets. Of the shorebirds, besides the usual "peeps", yellowlegs, and Ringed Plovers, there were Dowitchers and Pectoral Sandpipers. Three Snipe quite near the dyke continued their probing in the mud, unmindful of the onlookers. Rough-winged and Tree Swallows flew over and a few Chimney Swifts. Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls, Common and Black Terns, some of the latter in changing plumage, were common. There was one Caspian Tern.

In the section reached by Route 89, there were six egrets (possibly including three seen earlier) and any number of Great Blue Herons. Green Herons and a Kingfisher flew back and forth, and once we saw a Bittern drop into the tall grass. Along the channel the Klabundes spotted a Black Rail, and others heard and briefly saw a Long-billed Marsh Wren. A Gallinule lurked in the reeds. Two angry Coots disputed with much wing-fluttering and splashing while their two families of half-grown young waited at a discreet distance.

The high spot of the day came as we were lunching, when Gertrude Webster spotted an immature Eagle flying west. For a long while we watched it soaring high against the fleecy clouds. From the tower nearby we studied a nervously spiraling bird. Was it a Wilson's or a Northern Phalarope? Even the experts remained in doubt.

Marie Wendling

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COLOR-MARKED BIRDS

Several field observers have reported color-marked shorebirds. All birds marked in any way should be reported to the address below whenever the observer does not know the researcher that marked the bird. All details should be reported including: date, species, where marked, color, and any other behavior. Send to: U.S. Dept. of Interior,  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Migratory Bird Population Station  
Laurel, Maryland, 20810



CREDITS

Through an oversight, the names of the compilers of both the April and May B.O.S. Bird Counts, Lynn Rochester and Richard Freitag respectively were not published with the reports of those counts. The fine job of each is greatly acknowledged. Editor

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PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

- September 27 - Rare Birds and other slides from the collection of Dr. Robert Andrle
- October 11 - Annual Meeting - Election of officers and "Birding in Tikal, Guatemala" by the Klabundes
- October 25 - Report of A.O.U. meeting held in Toronto, Ontario in August
- November 8 - Regular meeting - Program to be announced

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

NOTE - ALL TRIPS ARE ON SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

- October 8 - October Bird Count, Leader Paul Benham. Call 877-5203 for assignment of territory.
- October 22 - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 7:30 A.M. at University Plaza. Leader Harold Mitchell (633-8612).
- November 11, (Saturday) Trip to Chautauqua Lake. Meet at Abbot Road Plaza at 8:00 A.M. Leader Francis Rew (822-0342).
- November 25, (Saturday) Niagara Loop Trip. Meet at Vermont Street entrance to Peace Bridge at 8:00 A.M. Leader Mary Louise Emerson (885-0067).

\* \* \* \* \*

Please mail records for each month not later than the fifth day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York, 14217.

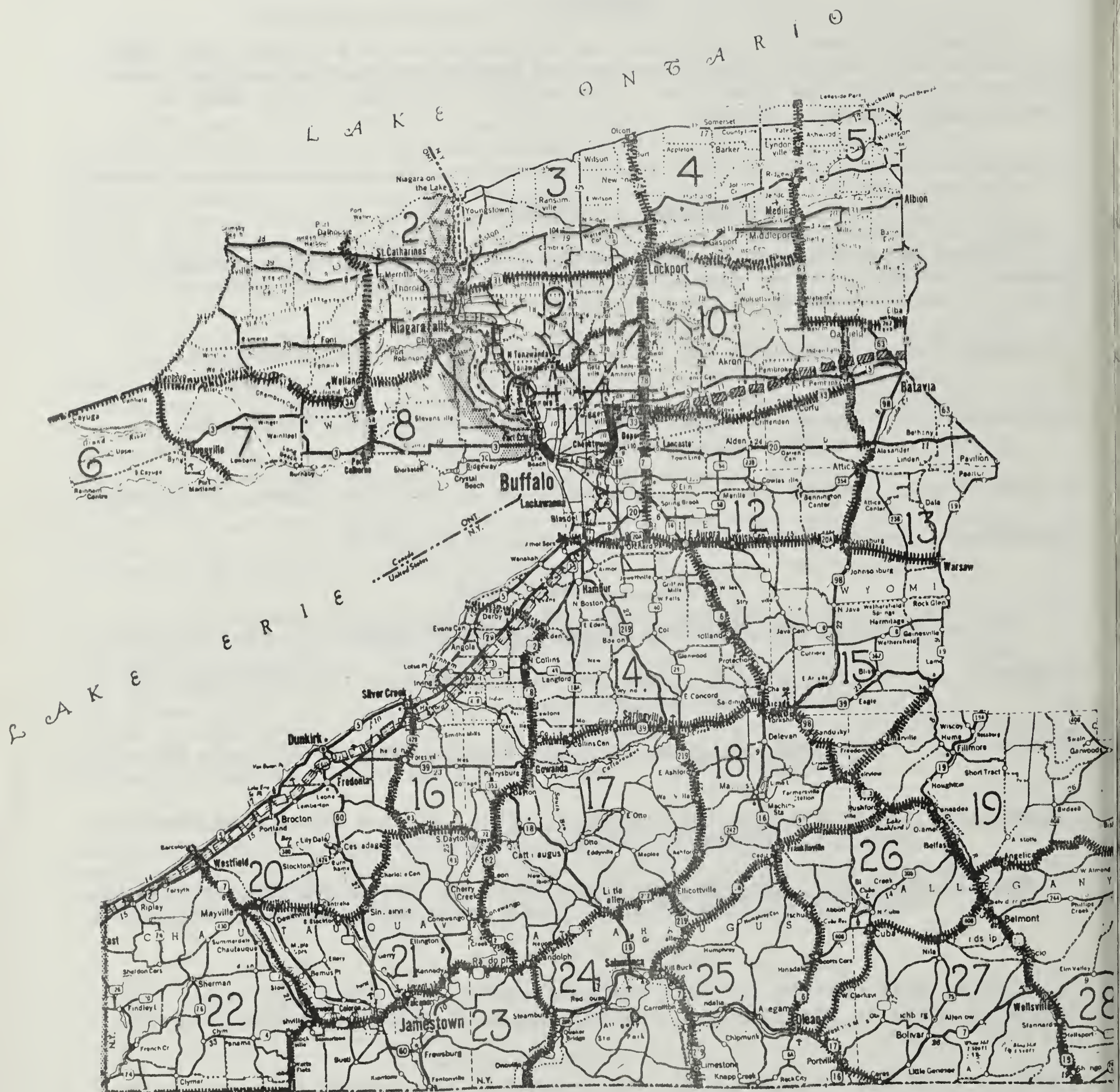
CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York, 14092.

BACK ISSUES: Available at \$.15 per copy from the Treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$1.50 per year payable to the Treasurer.

EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, 545 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, New York, 14301.







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# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 33

September 1967

Number 9

## THE MONTH

The temperature in August was 0.3 degrees below the mean; rainfall was 4.4 inches - about one inch above normal. (Meteorological data as reported at Greater Buffalo International Airport.) There were no reports of pile-ups of migrating passerine birds, except for a single local observation on the 30th. The number of shoredirds dropped off noticeably just as the month began and continued below normal, although Western Sandpipers and Wilson's Phalaropes appear to be exceptions, especially in the latter part of the month. The level of Lake Erie has been several inches higher this season than in the past few years, but large mats of decayed algae piled along the shore in places make feeding areas where otherwise there would be none. At least three different Little Gulls were seen. The Caspian Tern reports represent the largest number ever recorded at one location along the shore and the largest count for the entire Canadian Shore. The Yellow-crowned Nigh Heron is of special interest. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

Common Loon	Aug.	26	1 Morgan's Point, Ont. Burger, Brownstein
Y-cr. Night Heron	"	4	1 Como Pk., Lancaster Grzybowski, Brownstein
Pintail	"	16	18 Rockhouse Point, Ont. Rybczynski, Grzybowski
Blue-w. Teal	"	24	420 Rockhouse Point, Ont. Freitag



Vol. 33, No. 9 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Greater Scaup	Aug.	6	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Burger et al
	"	24	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
	"	26	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Lunardini
Bufflehead	Aug.	26	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Salisbury
Oldsquaw	Aug.	6	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
	Aug.	26	1	Evans Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
Common Merganser	"	3-29	3-15	Canadian Shore L.Erie	Several observers
Red-br. Merganser	"	12	10	Canadian Shore L.Erie	Lunardini
	"	26	8	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Lunardini
Turkey Vulture	"	13	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	19	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	23	1	Belmont	Burtions
Cooper's Hawk	"	17	1	Prendergast Point	Elderkin, Hiller
Broad-wing. Hawk	"	25, 31	1, 1	Belmont	Burtions
Bald Eagle	"	31	1	over Rockhouse Pt., Ont.	Hess, Freitag
		(adult)			
Osprey	"	16F	1	Scio	Burtions
Virginia Rail	"	9	1	Beaver Meadow, Java	Wendling
Am. Golden Plover	"	16F, 20	3, 1	Prendergast Point	Sundell et al
	"	17	1	Prendergast Point	Elderkin, Hiller
	"	21, 27	1, 1	Prendergast Point	Sundell et al
	"	31	1	Evans Point, Ont.	Wagner
	"	31	2	Elma	Danner
Black-bell. Plover	"	9F	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Elderkin et al
	"	19	26	Sherbrook Twp., Ont.	Burger et al
Ruddy Turnstone	"	2	4	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitags
Whimbrel	"	22	1	Stromness, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
	"	31	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag, Hess
	"	31	1	Evans Point, Ont.	Wagner
Upland Plover	"	30	6	over Belmont	Burtions
Solitary Sandpiper	"	20	4	Prendergast Point	Sundell, Richardson
		(maximum count for the month)			
Willet	"	31	2	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Wagner
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	4	74	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
Knot	"	12, 19	1, 1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	"	27	2	Canadian Shore L.Erie	Seeber
W.-rump. Sandpiper	"	20	4	Canadian Shore L.Erie	Seeber
		(maximum count for month)			
Baird's Sandpiper	"	22	4	Stromness, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
		(maximum count for month)			
Dunlin	Aug.	3-26	1-2	Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger, Lunardini, Seeber et al
Stilt Sandpiper	"	12	5	Canadian Shore L.Erie	Lunardini
	"	31	4	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitag, Hess
Western Sandpiper	"	15, 16	1, 1	Prendergast Point	Sundell, Richardson
	"	17	2	Prendergast Point	Elderkin, Hiller
	"	17	1	Dunkirk	Sundell, Richardson
	"	17	1	Hamburg Town Park	Danner
	"	19	1	Burnaby, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	19, 20	1, 1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein, Burger
	"	20	1	Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	26	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Burger et al
	"	26	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al



Vol. 33, No. 9 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Wilson's Phalarope	Aug.	6	1	Sugarloaf Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
"	"	6	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	Aug.	23	2	Sugarloaf, Ont.	Emersons, Witebsky
	Aug.	24	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
	Aug.	24	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitag
	Aug.	26	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	Aug.	26	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
	Aug.	27	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Seeber et al
	Aug.	27	2	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Seeber et al
	Aug.	31	2	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitag et al
*Franklin's Gull	"	12F	2	Mohawk Point, Ont.	Wendling, Webster
"	19-29		2-3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Several observers
"	26		2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Burger et al
"	27		2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Seeber et al
Little Gull	Aug.	12	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Brownstein et al
"	19,20		1,1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Burger et al
"	24		2	Queenston, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
"	27		1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Seeber et al
Caspian Tern	"	26	26	Canadian Shore L.Erie	Burger, Brownstein
(maximum count; 13 of these were at Port Colborne; ten other records for month)					
Black Tern	"	12	5000	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Brownstein et al
Yellow-b.Flycatch.	"	19F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Burger et al
Least Flycatcher	"	31F	5	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Lunardini
"	"	31F	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitag, Hess
Olive-s.Flycatch.	"	22F	1	Rose Hill, Ont.	Axtells
"	"	28	1	Amherst	Inskip, Zehr
Bank Swallow	"	12	600	Sherbrooke Twp., Ont.	Burger et al
Barn Swallow	"	14	500	Jamestown Roost	Beal
Carolina Wren	"	8	1	East Aurora	Burger, Brownstein
Mockingbird	"	12	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Burger et al
"	"	20	1	Zoar Valley	Hess
Swainson's Thrush	"	26F	2	Springbrook	Danner
"	"	28	1	Rose Hill, Ont.	Axtells
Bl.-gr.Gnatcatcher	"	5F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Wagner
"	"	6	1	Rose Hill, Ont.	Burger et al
"	"	26	3	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Lunardini
Loggerhead Shrike	"	22	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham, Salisbury
Philadelphia Vireo	"	26	1	Sugarloaf, Ont.	Brownstein, Grzybowski
Bl.&-w. Warbler	"	13F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Hess
"	"	31	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Lunardini
Tennessee Warbler	"	30F	1	Rose Hill, Ont.	Axtells
Magnolia Warbler	"	24F	3	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag
Cape May Warbler	"	26F	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Seeber
Bl.-thr. Blue Warb.	"	31F	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Lunardini
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	"	31F	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag, Hess
Bay-br. Warbler	"	26F	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Rybczynski
Blackpoll Warbler	"	31F	5	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Lunardini
Mourning Warbler	"	27F	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Nor. Waterthrush	"	12	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
"	"	12	1	Grant Point, Ont.	Brownstein
"	"	12	1	Springbrook	Danner
La. Waterthrush	"	15F	1	Barcelona	Sundell

Wilson's Warbler	Aug. 20F-30	1-2 Springbrook	Danner
	" 22-31	1 Rose Hill, Ont.	Axtells
Canada Warbler	" 11F-12	1,1 Springbrook	Danner
	" 12	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Lunardini, Grzybowski
Amer. Redstart	" 12F-31	1-3 Springbrook	Danner

Species previously recorded this year:	264
Additional species recorded this issue:	<u>1</u>
Total for 1967:	265

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DRAMATIC DECLINE IN PURPLE MARTIN NUMBERS AT JAMESTOWN ROOST

Mr. Clarence Beal of the Jamestown N.Y. Audubon Society advises us that the Society's annual census of their Purple Martin roost in that City yielded disappointingly low numbers in August, 1967. He cites the following figures for the census dates:

August 14 - 400 Martins  
August 22 - 150 Martins  
August 28 - 35 Martins  
August 31 - 11 Martins

On August 29th, 1960, Mr. Beal estimated 100,000 birds at the Jamestown roost. On August 29th, 1961, an estimated 75,000 birds were counted. In 1966, maximum counts of 10,000 birds and 5,000 birds were made on August 27th and August 29th, respectively.

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O R G A N I Z A T I O N   A C T I V I T I E S

FIELD TRIP, AUGUST 27, 1967 - CANADIAN SHORE OF LAKE ERIE

Thirteen members and friends met at the Peace Bridge at 7:00 A.M. for a trip along the shore from Fort Erie to Rockhouse Point. Despite leaden skies and intermittent rain 75 species of birds were observed. Notable were 6 Franklin's Gulls, 4 Wilson's Phalaropes, 1 Little Gull, Durlins and many other shorebirds, and numerous ducks including a Redhead, two Swans were spotted from Rockhouse Point across Gull Island. At that extreme distance we could hardly be sure they were swans, let alone the species, but they seemed to show through the telescope the curved necks and downward-pointed bills characteristic of Mute Swans. A final stop at Mud Lake was shortened by pouring rain.

All in all it was a satisfying and worthwhile field trip.

E.L. Seeber, Leader

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We have no copies in our files of the January 1964 issue of the Prothonotary (Vol. 30, No. 1). If anyone is thinking of disposing of back numbers of our publication, will he please give this copy to the librarian, Margaret Wendling ?



PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

- October 25 - Summary of June Breeding Bird Survey by Dr. Walter Klabunde
- November 8 - Identification of Gulls by Daniel Salisbury and Report of October Bird Count

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

NOTE - ALL TRIPS ARE ON SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

- October 22 - Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 7:30 A.M. at University Plaza. Leader Harold Mitchell (633-8612).
- November 11 - (Saturday) Trip to Chautauqua Lake. Meet at Abbot Road Plaza at 8:00 A.M. Leader Francis Rew (822-0342).
- November 25 - (Saturday) Niagara Loop Trip. Meet at Vermont Street entrance to Peace Bridge at 8:00 A.M. Leader Mary Louise Emerson (885-0067).

\* \* \* \* \*

Please mail records for each month not later than the fifth day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York, 14217.

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BACK ISSUES: Available at \$.15 per copy from the Treasurer.

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EDITOR: Whitney W. Mallam, NEW ADDRESS: 726 - 84th Street, Niagara Falls, New York, 14304, NEW PHONE: code - 716 - 283 - 9195.

THE SHOREBIRD COUNT EXPERIMENT OF 1967

Each summer from 1947 through 1966 the Buffalo Ornithological Society has held a shorebird count on one day in the summer. A summary appears in Prothonotary 32 (9): 107-116.

Although the Research Committee did not see fit to provide for this project's continuation, certain interested individuals cooperated in extending the scope of these counts this year. Three separate counts were taken on different weekends spaced through the height of the migration of these species. Only selected areas were covered. Of the original ten areas, five were walked on each of this year's counts, Areas 1, 2, 6, 7, and 10. These include about half the total shoreline but have in the past produced approximately 70% of the shorebirds. Also, as in the past two or three years, Territories 11 and 12, west of the Grand River, were covered.

(The results follow:)

Terr. 1	Terr. #1			Terr. #2			Terr. #6			Terr. # 7		
	7/23	8/20	9/3	7/23	8/20	9/3	7/22	8/19	9/2	7/22	8/19	9/2
Semipalm. Plover	-	50	8	4	15	17	22	40	14	2	38	15
Killdeer	16	5	42	35	3	32	24	16	15	15	24	12
Black-bell. Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-
Golden Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	33	1	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	2	-	-	-
Spotted Sandpiper	62	54	6	89	21	13	60	80	38	164	115	16
Greater Yellowlegs	-	1	2	5	9	-	-	3	6	-	-	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	21	39	4	31	1	6	44	38	17	37	30	18
Knot	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	9	1	-	9	-	-	7	14	8	3	18	10
W.-rump. Sandpiper	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Baird's Sandpiper	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Least Sandpiper	57	16	-	38	31	7	78	20	12	60	30	-
Short-b. Dowitcher	4	-	2	2	-	2	7	5	14	2	20	8
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Semipalm. Sandpiper	24	630	51	121	66	48	120	206	30	85	205	20
Western Sandpiper	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanderling	3	31	1	14	14	2	-	-	35	-	-	120
Wilson's Phalarope	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-t. Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	199	866	119	252	164	129	346	424	208	367	486	221



The inclusion of "Sharp-tailed Sandpiper" is based on two different groups of observers who, independently, observed well under favorable observational conditions, birds whose descriptions most nearly corresponds to the field marks of this far-western species. No attempt is here intended to claim the actual inclusion of this species within our observations. Rather, it is included here only to make the record complete.

The shores of Lake Erie are changing rapidly recently, and the increased growth of both algae and phanerogams has changed the appearance of our shores and their attractiveness for shorebirds. The high water this year was an additional factor which made this shore count even more difficult to carry out than in any previous year.

No attempt at analysis of the above results is attempted at this time.

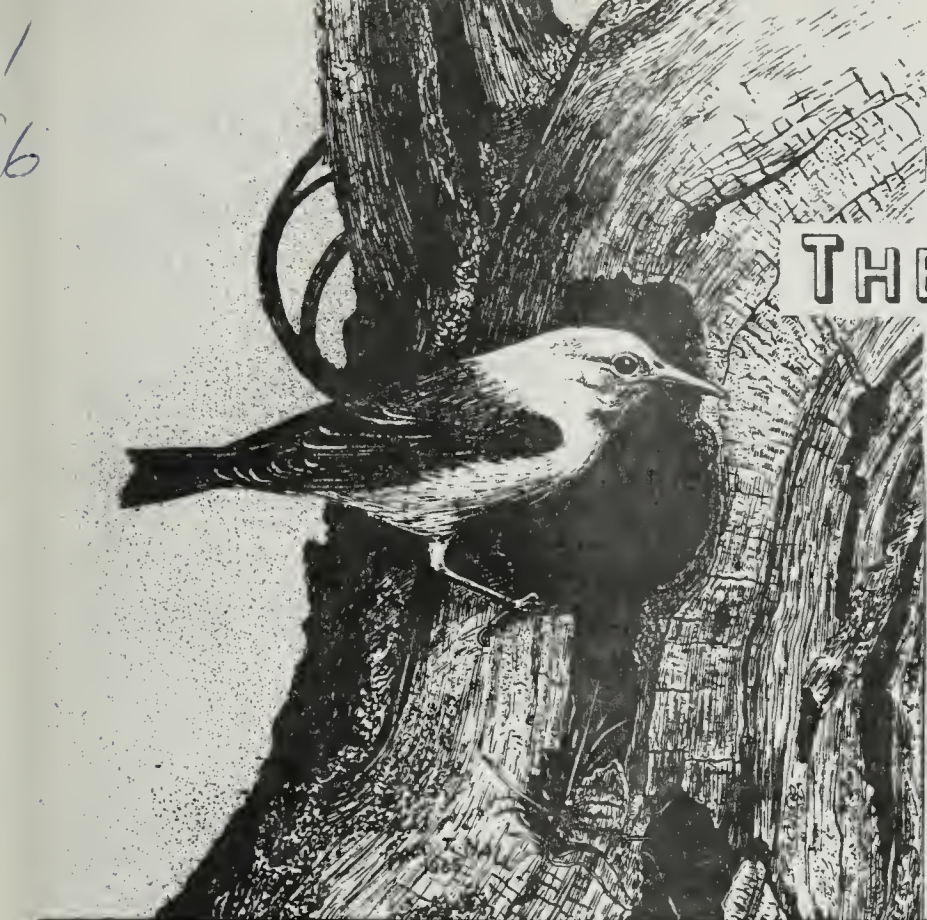
My thanks to each of those who assisted in these counts.

Ed. Seeber

Terr. #10			Terr. #11			Terr. #12			
7/22	8/19	9/2	7/22	8/19	9/2	7/22	8/19	9/2	
-	15	10	6	35	10	1	11	5	
25	5	3	65	5	3	95	9	1	
-	-	-				NONE			
-	-	-							
-	40	5	-	45	15	-	43	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
34	8	3	70	10	3	141	17	1	
-	-	-				NONE			
30	16	10	61	30	40	53	51	5	
-	-	-				NONE			
4	10	3	8	9	8	3	2	-	
-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
-	-	-				NONE			
15	40	30	20	50	70	22	33	10	
7	15	15	45	60	55	8	7	-	
-	-	-	25	8	6	-	-	-	
55	400	15	2	40	20	-	25	10	
1	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	
-	30	15	2	40	20	-	25	5	
-	-	-				NONE			
1	-	-				NONE			
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172	580	111	542	1043	280	550	343	37	TOTAL







# THE PROTHONOTARY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 33

OCTOBER 1967

Number 10

## THE MONTH

Rainfall in September was 6.36 inches, 3.23 inches above the long-range average. Except for heavy showers on the 9th, the rain was restricted almost entirely to the last ten days, with 3.41 inches falling on the 28th alone. The average temperature, 60.7, was 0.7 degrees below normal. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

Birds were fairly typical of recent Septembers. There were no concentrated hawk flights. Among shorebirds, the high spots were the greater-than-usual number of Western Sandpiper reports, three or possibly more Hudsonian Godwits, and a late Wilson's Phalarope. There were Little Gulls and Franklin's Gulls -- more of the latter than usual. Warblers and other migrant landbirds typically were most numerous either during rain or on days preceded by rain, but no very large waves were reported. The discovery of two Wheatears by Tom Bourne on the 27th continues to keep all our records of this species in the fourth week of September, the others being September 24, 1949, and September 25, 1965.

Gus Yaki of Niagara Falls, Ont., recently told B.O.S. members about a cannery waste disposal area near St. Davids, Ont., which promises to produce some interesting shorebird records, and in fact has already done so. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of



Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B. O. S.

Common Loon	Sept.	30F	60 over Alfred	Klingensmith
Common Egret	"	12	1 Oak Orchard GMA	Benham
	"	27	1 Lyndonville	Smiths
B-cr. Night Heron	"	4	2 Tifft St. Marsh, Bflo.	Kikta
	"	20-22	1-2 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Least Bittern	"	24	1 Colden, TV Tower	Clark
Canada Goose	"	22F	20 over Angola	Bourne
	"	23	2 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
Pintail	"	8	24 Mud Lake, Ont.	Rybczynski
Green-w. Teal	"	16	10 Eden	Bourne
	"	21	1 Langford	Bourne
Wood Duck	"	1,18	40,40 Cuba Marsh	Burtions
	"	17	42 Marilla	Rybczynski, Kikta
	"	27	22 Elma	Danner
Bufflehead	Sept.	9	1 Grant Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
White-w. Scoter	Sept.	11F	4 Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	11	2 Belmont	Burtions
Cooper's Hawk	"	16	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Hess
	"	27	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Broad-w. Hawk	"	1	4 over Zoar Valley	Hess
	"	3	1 Springbrook	Danner
	"	3	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	8	1 Point Abino, Ont.	Rybczynski
Osprey	"	2F	1 Haldimand County, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	7	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Rybczynski
	"	9	1 Belfast	Burtions
	"	10,13,29	1,1,1 Belmont	Burtions
	"	11	1 Wellsville	Burtions
	"	20	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	"	20	1 Town of Tonawanda	Inskip, Zehr
Sora	"	22	1 Colden, TV Tower	Clark
Golden Plover	"	2	84 Canadian Shore L.	Erie Burger et al
	"	4	85 Stromness, Ont.	Benham
	"	7-10	1 Prendergast Point	Sundell et al
	"	15	76 Clarence	Benham
	"	21	14 Erie Beach, Ont.	Freitag
Whimbrel	"	11	1 Strawberry Island	Clark, Seeber
	"	13	2 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Benham
	"	20	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Benham
W.-rump Sandpiper	"	3	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitag
	"	14,16	4,8 Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	21	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	23	1-3 Erie Beach, Ont.	several observers
Baird's Sandpiper	"	7-11	1-8 Prendergast Point	Sundell et al
	"	11,17	1,2 Dunkirk	Sundell, Richardson
	"	14	2 Hamburg Town Park	Danner
	"	27	1 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Dunlin	"	6F	2 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	McKales
Stilt Sandpiper	"	3	2 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Freitag
	"	30	1 St. Davids, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
Western Sandpiper	"	2	5 Grant Point, Ont.	Benham, Brownstein
	"	2	2 Grabell Point, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	3	1 Morgan's Point, Ont.	Freitag



Vol. 33, No. 10 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Western Sandpiper	Sept.	4	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham
(cont.)	"	8,9	1,1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	14	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	30	1	St. Davids, Ont.	Benham et al
*Hudsonian Godwit	"	11	2	Strawberry Island	Clark et al
	"	14,16	1,1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	30	1	St. Davids, Ont.	Benham, Rybczynski et al
Wilson's Phalarope	Sept.	30	1	St. Davids, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
*Parasitic Jaeger	"	22	1	Sturgeon Point	Bourne
Franklin's Gull	"	1-27	1-7	Fort Erie, Ont.	several observers
	"	20	7	Waverly Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	30	6	Fort Erie to Queenston, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
Bonaparte's Gull	"	11	2500	Fort Erie, Ont.	Burger
Little Gull	"	6	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Kikta
	"	17	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Benham
	"	23	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Burger, Brownstein
	"	27	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Danner
Forster's Tern	"	4	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell
	"	20	1	Canadaway Cr.	Elderkin
Caspian Tern	"	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Kikta
	"	12,17	3,2	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell
Black-b. Cuckoo	"	12	1	Springbrook	Danner
Common Nighthawk	"	5	48	over Kenmore	Benham
	"	26	12	over Buffalo	Hess
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	"	22	1	Belmont	Burtons
Yellow-sh. Flicker	"	20	30	Point Gratiot	Elderkin
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	"	2	1	Caneadea	Burtons
Red-headed Wdpkr.	"	20	1	Point Gratiot	Elderkin
	"	23	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Hess
	"	23	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	"	12F	1	Batavia	Buckland
	"	15,18	1,1	Wellsville	Burtons
Eastern Kingbird	"	6L	6	Wellsville	Burtons
Gr. Crest. Flycatch.	"	20L	1	Jamestown	Elderkin
Yellow-b. Flycatch.	"	2L	1	Springbrook	Danner
Least Flycatcher	"	29L	2	Belmont	Burtons
Cliff Swallow	"	2L	20	Caneadea	Burtons
Winter Wren	"	23F	1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	23F	3	Barcelona	Sundell
	"	24	1	Town of Tonawanda	Inskip
Carolina Wren	"	23	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Booth
	"	30	2	Erie Beach, Ont.	Rybczynski
Hermit Thrush	"	18F	1	Eggertsville	McKales
Swainson's Thrush	"	2F	1	Sheridan	Mitchell, Hammond
	"	7	2	Eggertsville	McKales
Gray-ch. Thrush	"	10F	1	Colden	Clark
Veery	"	7L	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Rybczynski
*Wheatear	"	27	2	Hamburg	Bourne
B.-gr. Gnatcatcher	"	2	1	Zoar Valley	Hess
Golden-cr. Kinglet	Sept.	6	2	Iroquois NWR	Andrle, Thill
	"	27F	2	Eggertsville	McKales
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	"	20F	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	23	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
	"	23	1	Delaware Pk., Bflo.	Mitchell

Water Pipit	Sept.	17F	1 Dunkirk	Sundell
Solitary Vireo	"	9F	1 Springbrook	Danner
	"	9F	1 Rushford	Burtens
	"	27	1 Greenhurst	Swanson
Philadelphia Vireo	"	4	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham
Warbling Vireo	"	2-25L	1-2 Springbrook	Danner
	"	13	1 Hamburg	Bourne
	"	13	1 Eggertsville	McKales
Orange-cr. Warbler	"	24F	2 Town of Tonawanda	Inskip
Nashville Warbler	"	1F-17	1-2 Springbrook	Danner
Parula Warbler	"	8	1 Williamsville	Wendlings
	"	13	1 Town of Tonawanda	Inskip
	"	23	1 Lakeside Cem., Hamburg	Andrie, Bourne
Yellow Warbler	"	9L	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Rybczynski, Salisbury
Myrtle Warbler	"	15F	1 Wellsville	Burtens
	"	17-18	2 Springbrook	Danner
Chestnut-s. Warbler	"	3F -9	2-3 Springbrook	Danner
Pine Warbler	Sept.	18	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Palm Warbler	"	7F	1 Port Colborne, Ont.	Rybczynski
	"	8	1 Eggertsville	McKales
Ovenbird	"	8F, 10	1, 1 Eggertsville	McKales
	"	15	1 Springbrook	Danner
*Connecticut Warb.	"	24F	1 Colden, TV Tower	Clark
	"	25	1 Lakeside Cem, Hamburg	Andrie, Bourne
	"	26	1 Eden	Bourne
	"	27L	1 Port Stockholm	Swanson
Bobolink	"	10L	1 Times Beach, Bflo.	Rybczynski
Red-w. Blackbird	"	18	5000 Cuba Marsh	Burtens
Baltimore Oriole	"	11L	1 Springbrook	Danner
Slate-col. Junco	"	8F	1 Delaware Park, Bflo.	Hess et al
	"	16	1 Springbrook	Danner
	"	16	6 Belmont	Burtens
Wh.-cr. Sparrow	"	29F	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Wh.-thr. Sparrow	"	17F-30	2 Springbrook	Danner
	"	20	1 Lake Erie State Park	Elderkin
Lincoln's Sparrow	"	9F	1 Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	10-30	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells

Species previously recorded this year:	265
Additional species recorded this issue:	4
Total for 1967:	269

## ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

### HAWK WATCHING AT HAWK-CLIFF

An unfavorable weather pattern on September 16th and 17th made the B.O.S. excursion to Hawk-Cliff a relaxing weekend for hawk watching. We were happy to meet John Haugh, a graduate ornithologist from Cornell University, who had been checking the hawk migration at Hawk-Cliff since early September and was continuing his study through the middle of November. He indicated that



relatively few hawks had come through. Seventy five on the day before (9/15) was the first flight of note since he had been there. Two peregrine falcons on (9/11) constituted his only noteworthy sightings.

Fortunately the flights on our weekend stay did show some increased activity. The totals of 195 for Saturday and 258 for Sunday were limited to five species.

The following week after a backlash of "Beulah" brought in a storm from the northeast on Thursday night, the McKales decided a revisit might be worthwhile. They arrived on Saturday (9/23) in time to watch 4,600 hawks go through. The day before (9/22) Haugh had counted over 13,000. Ed Seeber had returned there on Thursday (9/21) and saw no hawks at all, which shows that abnormal hawk activity is created by special weather patterns.

We thank John Haugh for the following data:

Species	Date			
	9/16	9/17	9/22	9/23
Turkey Vulture			3	6
Sharp-sh. Hawk	64	110	466	152
Red-tailed Hawk	2		9	4
Broad-wing Hawk	41	2	12,250	4,269
Bald Eagle				1 (imm.)
Marsh Hawk	3	9	52	25
Osprey			13	1
Sparrow Hawk	68	138	320	153
Unidentified Hawks	<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
TOTAL	195	258	13,113	4,611

Walter Klabunde  
4923 Creek Road  
Lewiston, New York

#### THE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY (FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE)

The Breeding Bird Survey is designed to measure changes in abundance of North American breeding birds by surveying populations on a large number of randomly located roadside transects. In the past two decades we have witnessed a drastic change in land use, agricultural practices and environmental pollution. With expanding human populations we can anticipate even greater intensity of land use and alteration of wildlife environments.

Except for a few rare and local species, no adequate method has existed for measuring population changes of non-game species on a continental basis.

The method for the Breeding Bird Survey was developed over a period of 15 years using observations from 7 States and Provinces. It was given an intensive field test in Maryland and Delaware in June 1965. The Survey was expanded in 1966 to include all States east of the Mississippi River as well as the eastern Provinces of Canada.



Each State and Province was assigned a certain number of routes in each degree block of latitude and longitude, the number depending upon the best estimate of potential coverage. An attempt was made to have uniform density of coverage within a state or province; but density varied from one state to another. Eight routes were assigned per degree block in New York State. The Buffalo Ornithological Society cooperated in this survey by covering seventeen routes in Western New York.

The starting point and direction for each route were determined in advance. The starting points within each degree block were drawn from a table of random numbers, each number representing minutes of latitude and longitude. After locating the intersection of latitude and longitude on a map, a conspicuous landmark on the nearest road was named as the starting point. The direction in which the route was to proceed was determined from the last digit in the minutes of latitude and longitude of the starting points.

Numbered interstate, federal and state highways were avoided as much as possible in order to reduce interference from traffic. Also, roads that might prove impassable in subsequent years were avoided. With these exceptions, each route proceeded as closely as possible in the prescribed direction unless or until it approached either a State line or a degree block boundary. If this happened, the direction of the route turned clockwise and the route continued until 50 stops were completed.

Although routes were laid out in advance wherever possible, provision was made for deviation from the prescribed route in the event of impassable roads or blockage of old roads by new highways. In order for the routes to be duplicated as closely as possible in the future, each observer was asked to mark his actual stopping points on his map. The maps then were returned to the Migratory Bird Populations Station so that master maps could be prepared for future use.

Figure 1 shows the starting points, names and approximate course of the seventeen routes covered by the B.O.S. participants.

Coverage was standardized as much as possible. Each observer was instructed to start at exactly one-half hour before local sunrise, making 50 stops along the predetermined route. The stops were one half mile apart, and the observer watched and listened for exactly three minutes at each stop. The 1967 Survey was scheduled and completed during June. In order to keep variability resulting from weather conditions to a minimum, observers were requested not to run their routes during rainy or foggy weather or if the wind exceeded twelve miles per hour.

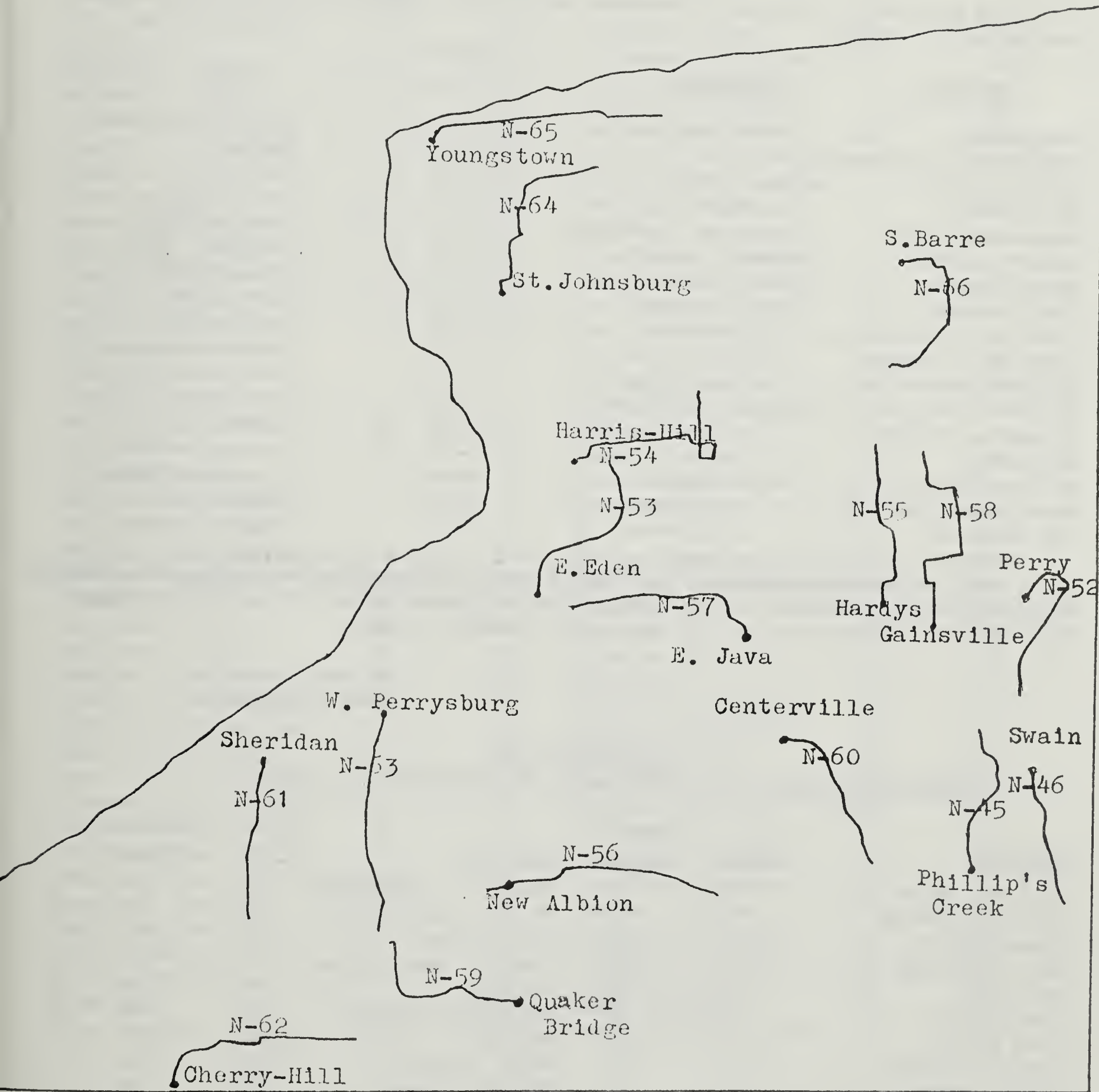
Table 1 summarizes the totals reported for each species. It must be stressed that these figures do not represent abundance of one species in relation to other species; the species most readily observed on roadside counts will be found in greater numbers in relation to their true abundance than will inconspicuous species, species that are difficult to identify, or species found in habitats such as marsh or swampland that are not sampled by roadside observations to the same degree as is farmland. The two figures given after each species in the table are the total individuals recorded, and the percentage of routes on which the species was recorded.

A total of 114 species were recorded on the seventeen routes, 28 of which were recorded on every route. The number of species observed on the routes



FIGURE I

Western New York Breeding Bird Survey Routes



varied from 43 to 74 with 60 being the median for the seventeen routes. For comparison purposes all species recorded in over 70% of the routes in the 1966 Survey are indicated by an asterik. Also the ten most conspicuous species in our area are shown by number in parenthesis.

The following were the observers and their assistants who covered the routes in our area:

<u>Observer</u>	<u>Assistant</u>	<u>Route #</u>	<u>Name</u>
Lou Burton	Doris Burton	N-45	Phillip's Creek
Clarence W. Klingensmith		N-46	Swain
Alice Ulrich	Ed. Ulrich	N-52	Perry
Ed. Seeber	A. Zuris	N-53	East Eden
Marie Wendling	Margaret Wendling	N-54	Harris Hill
Robert Andrie	Joseph Thill	N-55	Hardys
David Bigelow	Dee Bigelow	N-56	New Albion
Paul Benham	Mary Benham	N-57	East Java
Harriette Klabunde	W. Klabunde	N-58	Gainsville
Stephen W. Eaton		N-59	Quaker Bridge
Richard Brownstein	Joanna Burger	N-60	Centerville
Francis Rew, L. I. Buck, F. Rathbun		N-61	Sheridan
Robert A. Sundell		N-62	Cherry Hill
Ed. Seeber	A. Zuris	N-63	W. Perrysburg
Willard McKale	Alice McKale	N-64	St. Johnsburg
Harriette Klabunde	W. Klabunde	N-65	Youngstown
Don Thureau		N-66	South Barre

All participants agreed that was a most interesting and enjoyable census and are looking forward to receiving the publication of the 1967 Breeding Bird Survey to see how we fit into the overall picture.

Walter Klabunde,  
Area Coordinator

T A B L E 1  
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS AND FREQUENCY OF DETECTION BY SPECIES

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent Routes</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent Routes</u>
Pied-b. Grebe	1	6	Black-c. Chickadee	61	65
Gr. Blue Heron	9	35	Wh.-br. Nuthatch	15	47
Green Heron	6	24	House Wren	154	100
Amer. Bittern	2	12	Long B. Marsh Wren	3	12
Mallard	23	29	Catbird *	194	100
Black Duck	2	6	Brown Thrasher *	42	88
Wood Duck	10	18	Robin * (3)	1250	100
Turkey Vulture	1	6	Wood Thrush *	110	100
Red-t. Hawk	15	47	Hermit Thrush	15	29
Red-s. Hawk	1	6	Veery	58	76
Marsh Hawk	1	6	Bluebird	12	35
Sparrow Hawk	17	53	Cedar Waxwing	86	83
Bobwhite	1	6	Starling * (2)	2479	100
Ruffed Grouse	1	6	Yellow-th. Vireo	2	12
Pheasant	179	76	Solitary Vireo	3	18



Vol. 33, No. 10 - Table 1, Total Individuals and Frequency of Detection  
By Species (cont.)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent Routes</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent Routes</u>
Turkey	5	6	Red-eyed Vireo *	101	100
Florida Gallinule	1	6	Warbling Vireo	41	71
Killdeer	123	100	Golden-w. Warbler	4	12
Woodcock	3	12	Blue-w. Warbler	14	35
Wilson's Snipe	2	12	Nashville Warbler	3	12
Upland Plover	14	24	Yellow Warbler	262	100
Spotted Sandpiper	17	59	Magnolia Warbler	5	18
Ring-b. Gull	9	18	Bl.-th. Bl. Warbler	4	12
Rock Dove	318	71	Cerulean Warbler	1	6
Mourning Dove *	211	100	Bl.-th. Gr. Warbler	9	24
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	6	24	Blackburn. Warbler	4	18
Black-b. Cuckoo	11	35	Chestnut-s. Warbler	27	59
Screech Owl	2	12	Oven-bird	31	47
Gr. Horned Owl	4	18	La. Waterthrush	1	6
Whip-poor-will	1	6	Mourning Warbler	10	35
Chimney Swift *	62	76	Yellowthroat *	176	100
Hummingbird	1	6	Hooded Warbler	1	6
Belted Kingfisher	16	47	Canada Warbler	9	18
Yel.-sh. Flicker *	98	100	Redstart	23	59
Pileated Wdpkr.	2	12	House Sparrow * (5)	1055	100
Re.-bellied Wdpkr.	1	6	Bobolink	376	100
Red-headed Wdpkr.	4	24	E. Meadowlark * (8)	528	100
Yel.-b. Spasucker	4	12	Red-w. Blackbird*(1)	2748	100
Hairy Woodpecker	9	35	Baltimore Oriole	144	100
Downy Woodpecker	19	59	Grackle * (4)	1227	100
Kingbird *	80	100	Cowbird *	267	100
Cr. Glycatcher *	31	71	Scarlet Tanager	22	59
Phoebe	58	100	Cardinal *	42	76
Acadian Flycatcher	1	6	Rose-br. Grosbeak	32	76
Traill's Flycatcher	60	76	Indigo Bunting *	85	83
Least Flycatcher	45	76	Purple Finch	21	35
Wood Pewee *	52	94	Goldfinch * (7)	600	100
Olive-s. Flycatcher	2	6	Eastern Towhee *	133	94
Prairie Horn. Lark	84	71	Savannah Sp. (9)	481	100
Tree Swallow	29	53	Grasshopper Sp.	29	59
Bank Swallow	59	35	Henslow's Sparrow	10	41
Rough-w. Swallow	2	12	Vesper Sparrow	118	94
Barn Swallow *	301	100	Slate-col. Junco	11	18
Cliff Swallow	8	12	Chipping Sparrow *	239	100
Purple Martin	29	29	Field Sparrow *	236	100
Blue Jay *	66	100	Swamp Sparrow	11	35
Crow * (10)	452	100	Song Sparrow * (6)	963	100

\* Species detected over 70% of routes on 1966 survey east of Mississippi.

PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

- December 13 - Birds of the World in Postage Stamps by Edward A. Williams.  
Plans for Christmas Count by Harold H. Axtell.
- January 10 - Regular Meeting - Program to be announced.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

NOTE - ALL TRIPS ARE ON SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

- November 25 - (Saturday) Niagara Loop Trip. Meet at Vermont Street entrance to Peace Bridge at 8:00 A.M. Leader Mary Louise Emerson (885-0067).
- December 23 - Annual Christmas Count. Leader Harold Axtell. Please attend to December 13th meeting or contact the leader at 896-5200 for assignment of territory.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please mail records for each month not later than the fifth day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York, 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York, 14092.

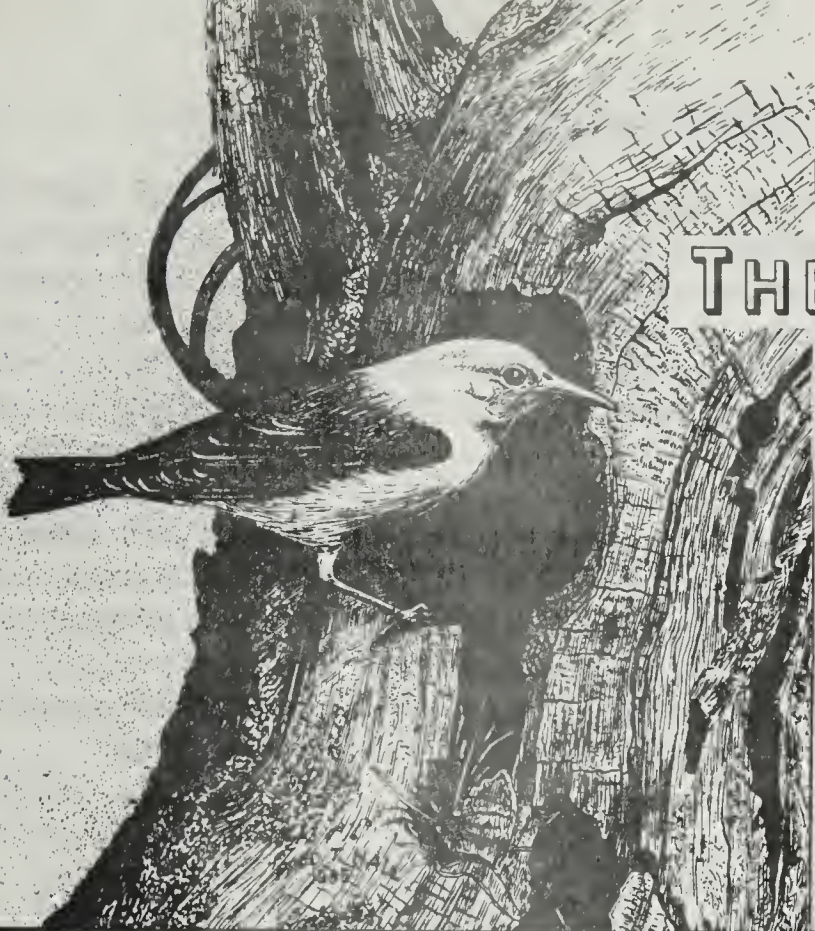
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71  
96



# THE PROTHONOTARY

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THE

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 33

NOVEMBER 1967

## THE MONTH

ALBERT R. MANN  
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FEB 20 1968  
Number 11

Temperature during October averaged 51.9 degrees, 1.1 degrees above the mean. Total precipitation was 4.78 inches, 1.78 above normal. (Meteorological data as recorded at Greater Buffalo International Airport.)

The record-breaking numbers of Canada Geese during the month deserve special comment. In addition to more than 13,000 listed by participants in the October Bird Count on the 8th, a large migration movement was reported on the 6th and 7th. On the morning of the 7th at Rose Hill Road, Ontario, I observed the most spectacular migratory passage of Canada Geese in my experience (though of course not comparable to the spectacle of the goose flights to and from their feeding grounds at such gathering spots as Oak Orchard and Lake Ontario). It was an unseasonably cold morning, with a temperature of 38 degrees and a light frost. Weather was partly cloudy at dawn, but became clear by mid-morning. The wind was easterly, estimated at 15 to 20 m.p.h. Approximately 1500 geese were counted in about 60 flocks. (Although "flocks" were carefully counted, I say "about" because of such questions as: are two geese a flock? and when two flocks join to become one, or one divides into two or three flocks, how many should be recorded?) Observations were within a front about five miles wide, extending westward from the Niagara River. All geese were flying almost straight south, continuing in the same direction out over Lake Erie. Flocks ranged up to about 95 individuals. The first did not appear until well after sunrise, which was 7:19 EDT. The peak was at 8:20 A.M. EDT, when 8 flocks could be seen at one time. Only four groups passed after 9:05, the last being at 9:35. Continued watching throughout the day until after dark revealed no more geese. Hence, the entire flight passed in about two hours, most of it in one and a half hours, during which one or more migrating flocks were visible most of the time. In more than 1,000 early mornings of field observation at goose-migrating season during twenty years in the Niagara Frontier, I have rarely seen more than five or six flocks of Canada Geese flying in migratory passage during a day, and, so far as I can recall, never more than twelve such flocks in a day, previous to this occasion.



Fall hawk flights of more than 20 or 30 birds in the southeastern part of the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario always deserve special mention. Dr. Andrle reports a flight of 51 hawks of six species moving eastward between Waverly Beach and the Niagara River from 12:15 to 1:15 P.M., October 19. A lengthy rainfall had just ended and clearing had commenced. Dr. Andrle says that as the hour advanced and clearing proceeded, the hawks flew higher and the flight tapered off.

On the 28th, Willard and Alice McKale had a Ringed Turtle Dove for about six hours at their feeding station in Eggertsville. A call brought Harold Mitchell who also saw it. Although this species has become naturalized locally in Florida and southern California, it is widespread in captivity, and the appreciable possibility that this individual was an escape prevents us from adding it to the avifauna of the Niagara Frontier at the present time.

The southern border of the Dunnville Marsh on the east side of the Grand River near Stromness, Ontario, where Sharp-tailed Sparrows formerly could be seen in their fall migration, has been destroyed during the present decade by waste from a fertilizer plant. Explorations this fall by Clark and Seeber, however, revealed two of these birds one and three-quarters miles farther northwest, about a mile and a half southeast of Dunnville.

Reports by several parties of observers independently show that the number of Bluebirds migrating over the southeastern part of the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario this October exceeded by many times the number during any autumn of the past decade. Particularly large numbers were observed there on the 6th and 7th. This is the third successive year in which very noticeable increases of migrating Bluebirds have been apparent in that area.

The top story of the month is the discovery of a species new to our knowledge of birds of the Niagara Frontier Region -- a Mew Gull, October 24, near locks in the Welland Canal at Port Weller, now part of St. Catharines, Ontario. Dan Salisbury, who found and identified the bird, phoned the Buffalo Museum of Science, enabling the gull to be collected. This species has been taken previously only three times in eastern North America: twice in coastal Massachusetts and once in Newfoundland. All of those three specimens have been most recently identified as Larus canus canus, the European race. Published keys, descriptions, measurements, and illustrations seem to indicate the Port Weller specimen, a male, to be L. c. brachyrhynchus, the race from western North America. However, it is being sent to the U. S. National Museum for verification as to subspecies. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) has been received and



placed in the permanent files of the B. O. S.

Common Loon	Oct.	19	40	over Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	21	3	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells et al
	"	28	3	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
Red-necked Grebe	"	22	1	Rathfon Point, Ont.	Freitag
D.-crest. Cormorant	"	12	2	Chippawa, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	29	1	Barcelona	Sundell
B.-cr. Night Heron	"	1	4	Beaver Island St.Pk.	Hess, Freitag
American Bittern	"	31	1	Elma	Schafer
Whistling Swan	"	22F	3	Rathfon Point, Ont.	Freitag
	"	24	21	Port Weller, Ont.	Salisbury
Canada Goose	"	6	2000	over Spring Brook	Danner
	"	7	1500	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Brant	"	22F	1	Grimsby, Ont.	Clark
Snow Goose	Oct.	5	1	Boston	Bourne
	Oct.	7	8	Port Weller, Ont.	Benham, Rybczynski et al
Gadwall	"	22	1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Shoveler	"	11,22	1,1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Wood Duck	"	1	32	East Eden Pond	Andrles
Redhead	"	12	6	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Ring-necked Duck	"	1F	12	East Eden Pond	Andrles
	"	13	6	East Eden Pond	Bourne
	"	22	1	South Park, Bflo.	Kikta
	"	22	15	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell et al
Canvasback	"	28F	35	over Fort Erie, Ont.	Rybczynski, Benham
Greater Scaup	"	18	400	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	22	16000	Port Weller, Ont.	Clark, Wade
Bufflehead	"	17F	3	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
Old Squaw	"	21F	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rybczynski, Benham
	"	29	18	Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag, Hess
Surf Scoter	"	7F	1	Queenston, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	12	12	Strawberry Island	Andrle, Clark
	"	12	2	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	29	95	Niagara Falls to Erie Beach, Ont.	Axtells
Common Scoter	"	27F	30	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	29	30	Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag, Hess
	"	29	1	Barcelona	Sundell, Richardson
Ruddy Duck	"	17	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	29	1	Barcelona	Sundell, Richardson
Hooded Merganser	"	24	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
Turkey Vulture	"	22	5	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	"	7	3	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	19	2	over Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
Cooper's Hawk	"	19	1	Caneadea	Burtens
Red-tailed Hawk	"	19	35	over Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	21	4	over Lancaster	Hess et al
Red-should. Hawk	"	19	10	over Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	21	2	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Rough-leg. Hawk	"	15F	1	Thorold, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	24	3	Port Weller, Ont.	Salisbury
	"	24	1	Athol Springs	Bourne
	"	28,29	6,2	Lyndonville	Smiths

Vol. 33, No. 11 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Osprey,	Oct.	9	1	Buffalo	Andrle
	"	14,15,16	1,1,1	Belmont	Burtens
	"	21	1	over Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	22	1	Como Park, Lancaster	Rybczynski
<u>Pigeon Hawk</u>	"	1	1	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Thill
	"	10	1	Lake View	Bourne
	"	15	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag
Turkey	"	30	6	Belmont	Burtens
Semipalm. Plover	"	15L	1	Dunkirk	Rybczynski
Amer. Golden Plover	"	12	1	Fillmore	Burtens
Spotted Sandpiper	"	12L	3	Fillmore	Burtens
Solitary Sandpiper	"	14L	1	Scio	Burtens
Lesser Yellowlegs	"	12L	4	Fillmore	Burtens
Greater Yellowlegs	"	29	1	Elma	Danner
Knot	"	6L	1	Bay View	Bourne
Pectoral Sandpiper	"	31	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
W.-rump. Sandpiper	"	3	3	Hamburg	Bourne
Baird's Sandpiper	"	7L	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
Least Sandpiper	"	7	1	St. Davids, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
Semipalm. Sandpiper	"	12L	2	Fillmore	Burtens
Hudsonian Godwit	"	1	1	St. Davids, Ont.	Benhams
Sanderling	"	31	5	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Wilson's Phalarope	Oct.	1	1	St. Davids, Ont.	Benhams
Parasitic Jaeger	"	18	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Salisbury
*Mew Gull	"	24	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Andrle, Salisbury, Axtell, Clark
				(specimen collected)	
Franklin's Gull	"	12	1	Buffalo	Andrle, Clark
	"	22,29	5,6	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	28	6	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Salisbury et al
	"	28	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
Bonaparte's Gull	"	22	15,000	Lower Niagara River	Klabundes
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	"	28	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Salisbury, Rybczynski, Axtells et al
Little Gull	"	7	1	Queenston, Ont.	Salisbury et al
	"	19	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	21, 28	1,1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
	"	21	1	Queenston, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
	"	24, 25	1,1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	22, 29	2,2	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	26	1	Buffalo Waterfront	Mitchell
<u>Bl.-leg. Kittiwake</u>	"	28	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Salisbury, Rybczynski, Axtells et al
	"	29	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Axtells
*Sabine's Gull	"	12	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Salisbury
Forster's Tern	"	3	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	18	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Salisbury
Saw-whet Owl	"	20F,28	1,1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Common Nighthawk	"	4L	1	Buffalo	Hess
Chimney Swift	Oct.	14	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtell
R.-t. Hummingbird	"	4L	1	Belmont	Burtens
Eastern Phoebe	"	22	1	Orchard Park	McKales
Nothern Horn. Lark	"	22	2	Elma	Schafer
(E.a. alpestris)					



Vol. 33, No. 11 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Rough-w. Swallow	Oct.	7	1 St. Davids, Ont.	Rybczynski 'et al
*Common Raven	"	11	1 Langford	Bournes
Tufted Titmouse	"	1-8	1 Spring Brook	Danner
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	15	1 Wellsville	Burtons
	"	29	1 Youngstown	Klabundes
House Wren	"	12	1 Delevan	Thill
	"	12	4 Colden	Clark
	Oct.	22L	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Winter Wren	"	21	6 Erie Beach, Ont.	Rybczynski, Benham
Carolina Wren	"	17	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
Long-b. Marsh Wren	"	21	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Witebsky
Mockingbird	"	7	1 St. Davids, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	16-31	1 Athol Springs	Csont
Robin	"	1-20	3200 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Wood Thrush	"	10L	1 Colden TV Tower (roost)	Clark
Swainson's Thrush	Oct.	19	1 Forest Lawn Cem., Buffalo	Freitag
	Oct.	20L	1 Eggertsville	McKales
Gray-ch. Thrush	"	6L	1 Spring Brook	Danner
E. Bluebird	"	14	6 Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	15,22	9,6 Wellsville	Burtons
	"	20	6 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	22	7 Iroquois NWR	Mitchell et al
	"	28	6 Thunder Bay, Ont.	Thills
Water Pipit	"	1	1 Langford	McKales
	"	11	35 Marilla	Kikta
Solitary Vireo	"	19	1 Forest Lawn Cem., Buffalo	Freitag
	"	20L	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Red-eyed Vireo	Oct.	28L	1 Grand Island	Klabundes
Philadelphia Vireo	"	1	1 Beaver Island State Park	Hess, Freitag
	"	1	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Tennessee Warbler	Oct.	20	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Orange-cr. Warbler	"	15	1 Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag
Nashville Warbler	"	21	1 Eggertsville	McKales
Magnolia Warbler	"	15L	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Cape May Warbler	"	4	9 Spring Brook	Danner
Bl.-thr. Bl. Warbler	"	15L	1 Kenmore	Thill
	"	15L	2 Fort Erie, Ont.	Freitag
Bl.-thr. Gr. Warbler	Oct.	28L	1 Eggertsville	McKales, Mitchell et al
Bay-br. Warbler	"	5	2 Forest Lawn Cem., Buffalo	Freitag
Blackpoll Warbler	"	1	3 Colden TV Tower	Clark
Pine Warbler	Oct.	21L	2 Alfred	Burtons
Yellow-br. Chat	Oct.	12L	1 Colden TV Tower	Clark

Vol. 33, No. 11 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Wilson's Warbler	Oct.	10L	1 Colden TV Tower	Clark
Amer. Redstart	"	21L	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Kikta
Eastern Meadowlark	"	25	100 Scio	Burtions
Rusty Blackbird	"	5F	1 Spring Brook	Danner
	"	13	8 East Eden Pond	Bourne
	"	13,14	34,2 Belmont	Burtions
Scarlet Tanager	"	12	1 Town of Tonawanda	Inskip et al
	Oct.	14L	1 Town of Tonawanda	Inskip
Rose-br. Grosbeak	"	4	1 Colden TV Tower	Clark
*Dickcissel	"	11-13	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Pine Siskin	"	12F	1 over Buffalo	Hess
	"	15	4 Wellsville	Burtions
Savannah Sparrow	"	22	1 Elma	Schafer, Danner
Grasshopper Sparrow	Oct.	1	1 Colden TV Tower	Clark
*Sharp-t. Sparrow	"	13	2 Dunnville, Ont.	Clark, Seeber
Tree Sparrow	"	22F	1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	"	29	6 Langford	McKales
Chipping Sparrow	"	7	100 Alfred	Klingensmith
W.-cr. Sparrow	"	5	1 Eggertsville	McKales
Fox Sparrow	"	12	2 Forest Lawn Cem., Buffalo	Freitag
	"	19	2 Forest Lawn Cem., Buffalo	Freitag
Lincoln's Sparrow	"	1-17	1-3 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
	Oct.	18,19L	1,1 Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Snow Bunting	"	20F	7 Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
	"	23	1 Buffalo	Clark, Wade

Species and subspecies previously recorded :	269
Additional species and subspecies recorded in this issue :	<u>5</u>
Total for 1967 :	274

ERRATA:

Vol. 33

P. 87 Gadwall, May 30, 3 Canadian Shore Lake Erie, Filor should be deleted (no verification report received)

p. 108 \* Western Sandpiper, July 8, 1 Lorraine, Ont., Rybczynski, Benham et al and (Western Sandpiper) July 8, 1 Castaday Point, Ont., Grzybowski et al should read: \* Western Sandpiper, July 8, 1 Castaday Point, Ont., Rybczynski, Benham, Grzybowski et al

Statisticians' Note: The Statisticians wish to make it clear that they have received no verification to substantiate the reported observations of the two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers mentioned in The Prothonotary, Vol. 33, p. 117-118, 1967, and that for this and other reasons nothing is to be considered as



having established any valid record for Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in the B.O.S. Study Area.

ORGANIZATION      ACTIVITIES

NIAGARA LOOP TRIP - November 25, 1967

There were eight who started out on the Niagara Loop trip on Saturday, November 25, 1967. It was gray, cloudy, damp morning, the visibility appeared to be poor, the loud cracks from the hunters' guns resounded over the lake.

Oblivious to the hunter's gun the Bonaparte's Gulls were feeding in the river near the old ferry boat landing in Fort Erie. This sight gave the lift that was needed. When in the midst the Sabine's Gull was spotted and observed by all, at times flying very close, the trip was made and promised good birding.

There were many species of ducks on the river among which were Gadwall, Ruddy, Ringed-necked, the three species of *scoters* and the three mergansers. Land birds were not plentiful. At Queenston two Common Terns were resting at the water's edge.

This was "gull day" for eleven species of gulls were seen among the thousands on the river. Besides the regulars were Glaucous, Iceland, Kumlien's Franklin's and a number of Little Gulls.

From Queenston we retraced our route along the river, hoping we would see the Kittiwake which had been reported in the area. Arriving at the point where we started we found the Kittiwake feeding with the flock of Bonaparte's Gulls and the Sabine's. Thus we ended the day, as it began, with another rare bird added to our list of gulls and making a total of forty-three species seen during the day. - Mary Louise Emerson, Leader.

ELEVEN GULL SPECIES OBSERVED ON THE NIAGARA RIVER ON ONE DAY

A record number of gull species observed in one day within the B.O.S. reporting area was set on December 16, 1967. Eleven species plus one well-defined sub-species (Kumlien's Gull) were observed at different points along the Niagara River from Fort Erie to Queenston, Ontario. (See report of Niagara Loop Trip, November 25, 1967, this issue, Ed.)

All gulls common for this season in the region were noted, viz. Herring, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's, Great Black-backed, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. In addition, at least three adult Little Gulls were observed, two above the Falls and one at Queenston. The area above the Falls also yielded an immature Kittiwake, an adult Black-headed Gull and an estimated 15,000 Bonaparte's Gulls. The first-year Franklin's Gull that has been seen near Thompson's Hole in Ft. Erie since mid-fall was recorded and constitutes one of the latest fall dates on record for the area.

The highlight of the day, however, was the study of several members of



the Iceland-Thayer's-Herring Gull complex at the Adam Beck overlook near Queenston, Ontario. Seven days before, this one bird, thought to be a Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri), had been reported at this same location. Up to five birds of this species had been closely observed by many members of the B.O.S. on the next day, (Sunday). Thereafter, an adult was secured on Monday (December 11) which constitutes the first specimen for both New York and Ontario. Today there were 3 immature Iceland Gulls (L. glaucoides), one adult Kumlien's Gull (L.g. Kumlienii), and 4 birds identified as L. thayeri.

The observers were as follows: P. Benham, A. Dorst, Mr. and Mrs. W. Kraetz, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. North, R. Rybczynski, D. Salisbury and the author.

Richard Brownstein

#### CALL FOR SPECIFIC KIND OF REPORTING

Regarding observations of New York birds: Contributors to the Noteworthy Records section of the Prothonotary are hereby requested to give particular species observed in one locale during any one observation not exceeding one day.

The new state bird book now under preparation by John Bull, and the successor to Elon Eaton's Birds of New York needs comparative data between upstate and downstate areas regarding local maxima. Special effort should be made to ascertain numbers on small passerines (e.g. warblers, sparrows) per locale, particularly where it would reflect the occurrence of a wave or flight. Listed below are several examples.

Red-tailed Hawk	May 19	21 over Hanover	Burger, Brownstein
Horned Grebe	Apr.25	150 Cuba Lake	Burtens
Bonaparte's Gull	" 23	3500 Dunkirk Harbor	Andrles, Elderkin
Myrtle Warbler	May 16	60 Lancaster	Grzybowski
Baltimore Oriole	" 6	22 over Lakeview	Clark

#### REPORT OF OCTOBER BIRD COUNT

Date: October 8, 1967

Weather Conditions: Temperature varying from 46° to 63°; winds 20-30 MPH, N to NW; steady rain in afternoon in most areas.

Species Recorded: Figures in parenthesis show division numbers where species was observed in three or fewer territories. Underlined common names indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B.O.S.

#### Loons - Mergansers

Common Loon	3	(1,6,16)
Horned Grebe	17	
Pied Billed Grebe	51	
D.-cr. Comorant	2	(1)

#### Vultures - Rails

Turkey Vulture	32
Sharp-sh. Hawk	3 (2,16,21)
Cooper's Hawk	7
Red-tailed Hawk	88



Vol. 33, No. 11 - Report of the October Bird Count (cont.)

Loons - Mergansers (cont.)

Gr. Blue Heron	76
Green Heron	6 (3,19,28)
B-cr. Night Heron	11 (9)
American Bittern	2 (2)

Canada Goose	13,321
Snow Goose	13 (5,10)
Blue Goose	1 (10)
Mallard	830
Black Duck	473
Pintail	13
Green-w. Teal	39
Blue-w. Teal	118
American Widgeon	556
Wood Duck	316
Redhead	5 (22)
Greater Scaup	26
Lesser Scaup	7 (4,14)
White-w. Scoter	36
Hooded Merganser	2 (5,21)
Common Merganser	4 (8,19)

Plovers - Terns

Semi-palm. Plover	12 (6,7)
Killdeer	510
Black-bellied Plover	23
American Woodcock	20
Common Snipe	13
Solitary Sandpiper	3 (6,13,26)
Greater Yellowlegs	11
Lesser Yellowlegs	22
Dunlin	34
Sanderling	40
Great Black Backed Gull	116
Herring Gull	1503
Ring-b. Gull	4406
Franklin's Gull	7 (2,7)
Bonaparte's Gull	8343
Little Gull	3 (2,3)
Laughing Gull	1 (16)
Common Tern	429
Black Tern	5 (2,8)

Jays - Warblers

Blue Jay	1264
Crow	1995
Black-c. Chickadee	852
Tufted Titmouse	1 (3)
White-br. Nuthatch	208
Red-br. Nuthatch	2 (5,14)
Brown Creeper	58
House Wren	3 (12,13,19)
Winter Wren	20
Carolina Wren	3 (8,26)

Vultures - Rails (cont.)

Red-should. Hawk	6 (19,23)
Broad-w. Hawk	3 (22,26)
Marsh Hawk	19
Osprey	5
Sparrow Hawk	65
Ruffed Grouse	20
Ring-n. Pheasant	187
Turkey	15 (28)
Sora	1 (8)
Common Gallinule	11
American Coot	512

Doves - Swallows

Mourning Dove	285
Barn Owl	2 (2)
Screech Owl	11
Great Horned Owl	9
Long-eared Owl	1 (27)
Belted Kingfisher	71
Yellow-s. Flicker	174
Pileated Woodpecker	2 (28)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4 (13,19)
Red-headed Woodpecker	7
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	14
Hairy Woodpecker	19
Downy Woodpecker	263
Phoebe	43
Wood Pewee	4 (12)
Horned Lark	
(E.a. Praticola)	183
Tree Swallow	15
Rough-w. Swallow	25
Barn Swallow	52

House Sparrow - Fringillids

House Sparrow	4837
E. Meadowlark	710
Red-w. Blackbird	27,825
Rusty Blackbird	871
Common Grackle	4366
Cowbird	2045
Scarlet Tanager	2 (27)
Cardinal	132
Rose-b. Grosbeak	4
Indigo Bunting	3 (26)
Purple Finch	5
Goldfinch	1365
Rufous-s. Towhee	77
Savannah Sparrow	80
Vesper Sparrow	40
Slate-c. Junco	470
Chipping Sparrow	153
Field Sparrow	164
White-cr. Sparrow	387

Vol. 33, No. 11 - Report of the October Bird Count (cont.)

Jays-Warblers. (cont.)

Long-b. Marsh Wren	15
Mockingbird	3 (2,17)
Catbird	50
Brown Thrasher	21
Robin	5044
Wood Thrush	3 (15,19,20)
Hermit Thrush	49
Swainson's Thrush	11
Bluebird	143
Golden-cr. Kinglet	259
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	424
Water Pipit	43
Cedar Waxwing	380
Starling	40,860
Solitary Vireo	3 (17,26)
Red-eyed Vireo	4 (3,11,12)
Phila. Vireo	4 (26,27)
B. & W. Warbler	1 (28)
Orange-cr. Warbler	7
Nashville Warbler	9
Magnolia Warbler	19
Cape May Warbler	8
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	19
Myrtle Warbler	722
Black-thr. Green Warbler	3 (16,20)
Blackburn. Warbler	8 (7)
Chestnut-side. Warbler	7
Bay-br. Warbler	25
Black-poll. Warbler	6
Palm Warbler	16
N. Waterthrush	1 (12)
Wilson's Warbler	2 (27)
Redstart	1 (13)

House Sparrow - Fringillids

White-thr. Sparrow	1268
Fox Sparrow	4 (5,14,28)
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 (8)
Swamp Sparrow	85
Song Sparrow	1348

GRAND TOTAL: 144 Species, 133,200 individuals

OBSERVERS:

Territory #

1. Fonthill, Ont.	- <u>Dan Salisbury</u>
2. Thorold, Ont.	- <u>Dan Salisbury</u>
3. Wilson, N. Y.	- <u>Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde</u>
4. Middleport, N.Y.	- <u>Mr. and Mrs. G. John Lehrer</u>
5. Oak Orchard, N.Y.	- <u>Harold Mitchell, Greg Hammond, Paul Hess</u>
6. Port Maitland, Ont.	- <u>Ed Williams</u>
7. Lowbanks, Ont.	- <u>Mary and Paul Benham</u>
8. Fort Erie, Ont.	- <u>Virgil Lunardini, Ed Seeber, Mr. and Mrs. George Letchworth, Robert Rybczynski, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Axtell</u>
9. Grand Island, N.Y.	- <u>Mr. and Mrs. W. McKale</u>
10. Akron, N.Y.	- <u>Mr. and Mrs. E. Ulrich</u>
11. Buffalo, N.Y.	- <u>Dr. A. Freitag, Joseph Kitka, Ted Malcow</u>
12. Lancaster, N.Y.	- <u>Cy Wolfling, Marie and Margaret Wendling, G. Webster, I. Bill, P. Shafer, D. Danner</u>



OBSERVERS (cont.):

Territory #

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 13. Batavia, N. Y.      | - <u>Mrs. O. L. Pixley</u> , Richard Pixley, Don Thureau, Dave Thompson, Russel Annabel, George Buckland, Mr. and Mrs. Max Mason, George Mahaney |
| 14. Hamburg, N.Y.       | - Dr. R. F. Andrle, T. L. Bourne, <u>Mr. and Mrs. John Bacon</u> (compilers)   |
| 15. Java, N.Y.          | - <u>Lena Turner</u> , M. Tolsma   |
| 16. Angola, N.Y.        | - <u>T. L. Bourne</u> , Dr. Robert Andrle  |
| 17. Cattaraugus, N.Y.   | - <u>Mr. and Mrs. David Bigelow</u>  |
| 18. Delevan, N.Y.       | - <u>Mr. and Mrs. Donald Clark</u>   |
| 19. Fillmore, N.Y.      | - <u>Allegany County Bird Club</u><br>Mrs. Katherine Palmer, compiler  |
| 20. Silver Creek, N.Y.  | - <u>Frances Rew</u>   |
| 21. Cherry Creek, N.Y.  | - Jamestown Audubon Society, <u>Clarence Beal</u>  |
| 22. Sherman, N.Y.       | - Jamestown Audubon Society, <u>E. Pillsbury</u>   |
| 23. Fewsburg, N.Y.      | - Jamestown Audubon Society, <u>R. Sundell</u>   |
| 24. Allegany Park, N.Y. | - not covered  |
| 25. Allegany, N.Y.      | - <u>Allegany County Bird Club</u><br>Mrs. Bror Larson, compiler   |
| 26. Cuba, N.Y.          | - <u>Allegany County Bird Club</u><br>Mr. and Mrs. Lon Burton, compilers   |
| 27. Bolivar, N.Y.       | - Allegany County Bird Club<br><u>Hilda Smith</u> , compiler   |
| 28. Alfred, N.Y.        | - Allegany County Bird Club<br><u>E. Larson</u> , compiler   |

Outstanding records include a record high fall count of Canada Geese, and a Laughing Gull reported by Dr. Andrle.

Sincere thanks are due to all B.O.S. members who cooperated in this count. Thanks also to our friends in the Allegany County Bird Club, the East Aurora Bird Club and Jamestown Audubon Society who turned out large numbers of field observers.

Paul M. Benham, compiler

PROGRAMS - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

- |             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| January 24  | - | Research Committee program. R. F. Andrle, Chairman.   |
| February 14 | - | "Winter Finches", T. Bourne.  |
| February 28 | - | "Peregrines and Gyrfalcons in Arctic and Subarctic Alaska", John Hough, Cornell University.                   |
| March 13    | - | "Birds of National Wildlife Refuges", George Gavuts, Associate Director of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. |

March 27 - Planning April Bird Count, V. Lunardini, leader  
"Falcons", David Bigelow

PROGRAMS - FIELD TRIPS

SPECIAL NOTICE - Since traffic patterns in the Buffalo area have changed greatly in recent years and since public city transportation is not always available at the proper times for our field trips to commence, especially, on Sunday mornings, the planning of meeting places within the central city is being generally discontinued. Meeting places in the suburbs will, with some exceptions, be used.

We do not, however, wish to exclude participants without their own cars. On the contrary, it is felt that many such people contribute to and profit from our field trip programs, and we solicit their participation. It becomes, therefore, most important that those planning to attend our field trips call the leader in advance, and that those driving make a reasonable effort to pick up those afoot, especially when asked by the leader.

The Planning Committee

- January 28 - East Aurora, etc. - R. Byron, leader. Meet at Roycroff Parking Lot (across from East Aurora High School) at 8:00 A.M.
- February 25 - Ontario Plain - Harriette and Walter Klabunde, leaders, 754-4424. Meet at Tops parking lot in Lewiston at 8:30 A.M. at the bottom of Lewiston Hill in Lewiston.
- March 9 - Grand Island, etc. - C. Joudry, leader. Meeting place and time to be announced.
- March 24 - Oak Orchard, etc. - P. Benham, leader. Meeting place and time to be announced.

N O T I C E

B.O.S. DINNER - FEBRUARY 28

Syracuse Restaurant  
346 Bailey Avenue, Eggertsville

6:00 P.M. SHARP  
Approximately \$3.00

We wish to welcome Mr. John Hough, of Cornell, before our 8:00 A.M. meeting at the museum. Mr. Hough has had extensive experience with hawks in Alaska, as well as in his observations at the hawk cliff near St. Thomas, Ontario.

\* \* \* \* \*



Vol. 33, No. 11

Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York, 14217.

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# THE PROTHONOTARY

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Volume 33

December 1967

Number 12

## THE MONTH

November temperature averaged 36.3 degrees, 2.8 below the long-range mean. Precipitation was 3.13 inches, 0.47 below normal. These figures, recorded at the Greater Buffalo International Airport, do not indicate the great variability of weather conditions throughout the Niagara Frontier Region.

Although November is usually an excellent month for birding in the Niagara Frontier Region, this one was even better than usual. Six common species were recorded later than in any previous year: Eastern Phoebe latest by 16 days, Tennessee Warbler by 6 days, Black-throated Green Warbler 1 day, Canada Warbler 26 days, American Redstart 17 days, and Bobolink 14 days. In addition, a rare Yellow Rail, captured while running around on the pavement in the heart of Jamestown's business section was a new date by 45 days. Eight species of Warblers, one of which was picked up after having recently died, is a new record for November. All three species of mimids were present through most of the month about a berry-producing area at Rose Hill Road, Ontario.

November 4 was a major migration day, producing the largest hawk migration recorded in the Niagara Frontier this fall, when 90 hawks of six species were counted flying eastward over Rose Hill Road during a two-hour period in late morning following a long rain. Eleven Loons, several flocks of Canada Geese, five flocks of Bluebirds, and 300 Robins were counted flying over the same locality. No comparable number of Robins were observed thereafter. A constant migration of gulls moved westward along the Canadian shore of Lake Erie throughout much of the day after the rain stopped. A number of other species were also conspicuously migrating.

The following day, November 5, was another active day of movement and piling up of migrants. A dramatic snow storm on the 6th and 7th forced some interesting species and numbers of birds to visit feeding stations.



A high peak in the population of the emerald shiner is probably largely responsible for the unusually great concentration of gulls on the Niagara River this fall, as it was in 1959. One morning during the present month, I saw twenty-four bushel baskets full of these shiners caught by a bait dealer in about two hours of liesurely use of an ordinary long-handled dip net along about thirty feet of river bank behind a hardware store in Fort Erie, Ontario. The majority of interested observers were able to see Kittiwake and Sabine's Gull at this very spot. Never before have so many Franklin's Gulls been recorded in our area at one time. Hess's total of eleven for the Niagara River is a conservative count. In only one or two years in ornithological history have the numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls on the river been comparable to those of this October and early November. I have heard of no careful estimate of the total number during this year's peak, but it would have been several or many tens of thousands. Numbers of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls were also very high, but no one estimated them either, except for the Herring Gulls in the upper rapids, above Niagara Falls, estimates averaging about 30,000. An adult Black-headed Gull is of special interest.

The second Mew Gull for the Niagara Frontier Region, like the first record on October 24, was also first found and identified by Dan Salisbury in the Welland Canal at St. Catharines, Ontario. He found it on November 28, and Dr. Andrle and party collected it on the 30th. It is a female in a plumage which we interpret to be that of a first winter Larus canus brachyrhynchus. Both specimens have been sent to the U. S. National Museum for positive subspecific determination.

Other observations deserving particular attention are the thirty Common Snipe at Dayton and the Harlequin Duck at Barcelona. There was only one record each for Northern and Red Phalarope (and one of uncertain species) this year, in spite of more than the usual amount of effort looking for them.

A Call for a Special Kind of Reporting

Readers should please refer to / and the Statisticians' Note elsewhere in this issue. - Harold H. Axtell, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, New York.

#### NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

- \* - indicates first record for the year
- F - indicates first record for the migration
- L - indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - indicates records from feeding stations

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable detailed written verification, according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the B. O. S.

Common Loon	Nov.	4,5	11,4	over Rose Hill Rd, Ont.	Axtells
	"	11,12	4,2	Cuba Lake	Burtons
	"	24	1	Upper Niagara River	Andrle et al
<u>Red-thr. Loon</u>	"	2	1	Hamburg Town Park	Bourne
<u>Red-thr. Loon</u>	"	7	1	Point Breeze	
				(Orleans County)	Webster, Bill



Vol. 33, No. 12 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Red-necked Grebe	Nov,	5	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
Whistling Swan	"	11,12	4,4	Cuba Lake	Burtens
	"	11	42	Jamestown	Beal
	"	12	2	Lewiston	Benham
	"	24	14	Mayville	Sundell
	"	26	90	Mayville	Beal et al
Canada Goose	"	4	215	over Rose Hill Road, Ontario	Axtells
	"	10	11	over Buffalo	Rybczynski
	"	26	300	Oak Orchard	Danner
Brant	"	7	500	Point Breeze (Orleans County)	Webster, Bill
Gadwall	"	1-30	1-10	Niagara River	several observers
	"	12	10	Riverside Marsh, Kiantone	Sundell, Richardson
Green-w. Teal	"	5	4	Cuba Lake	Burtens
Wood Duck	"	8	1	Forest Lawn Cem., Buffalo	Mitchell
	"	28,29	1,1	South Park, Buffalo	Kikta
Ring-necked Duck	"	12	4	Cuba Lake	Burtens
	"	24	35	Mayville	Sundell
*Harlequin Duck	"	26	1	Barcelona	Sundell et al
White-w. Scoter	"	2	90	Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
Ruddy Duck	"	5,11	48,2	Cuba Lake	Burtens
Hooded Merganser	"	24	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	5	14	upper Niagara River	Andrle
	"	24	140	Mayville	Sundell
Red-br. Merganser	"	7	1000	Olcott	Webster, Bill
Turkey Vulture	"	4,5	2,3	over Rose Hill Road, Ontario	Axtells
	<u>Nov,</u>	<u>18L</u>	1	over Rose Hill Road, Ontario	Axtells
Sharp.sh. Hawk	"	26	1	Amherst	Inskip, Zehr
Cooper's Hawk	"	4	1	over Rose Hill Road, Ontario	Axtells
	"	7	1	Aurora	Kikta
	"	29	1	Belmont	Burtens
Red-tailed Hawk	"	4,5	66,5	over Rose Hill Road, Ontario	Axtells
Red-sh. Hawk	"	4,5,7	15,1,1	over Rose Hill Road, Ontario	Axtells
	"	20	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Bourne
Rough-leg. Hawk	"	7	1	Orchard Park	Kikta
	"	11	4	Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	24	2	Port Weller, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	26	1	Cak Orchard	Danner
	"	30	2	Town of Lockport	Thill
Bald Eagle	"	12	1	Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
		(immature)			
Marsh Hawk	"	4	5	over Rose Hill Road, Ontario	Axtells
	"	5	9	Lyndonville	Smiths
*Yellow Rail	"	30	1	Jamestown	Sundell, Kibler
		(specimen collected)			
American Coot	"	26	1000	Mayville	Beal et al

Vol. 33, No. 12 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

American Woodcock	Nov.	11L	3	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Common Snipe	"	1L	30	Dayton	Kikta
Greater Yellowlegs	"	5,12L	3,1	Cuba Lake	Burtens
Purple Sandpiper	"	18	2	Port Weller, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
White-r. Sandpiper	"	12	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	G. North
	"	12	2	Morgan's Point, Ont.	G. North
Dunlin	"	1	7	Hamburg Town Park	Kikta
	"	12	210	Can. Shore L. Erie	G. North
*Red Phalarope	"	22	1	Athol Springs	Bourne
Glaucous Gull	"	24F	2	lower Niagara River	Andrle et al
	"	25	2	Niagara River	Mitchell et al
Iceland Gull	"	19F	1	Queenston, Ont.	Freitag, Hess
	"	25	3	Niagara River	Mitchell et al
<u>Mew Gull</u>	"	30	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Andrle, Salisbury et al

(specimen collected; presumably same bird reported  
and described as seen at same locality by  
Salisbury on Nov. 28)

Black-headed Gull	"	24	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Wagner
Franklin's Gull	"	1-29	1-2	Fort Erie, Ont.	several observers
	"	1	11	Niagara River	Hess
	"	3	2	Bird Island, Buffalo	Mitchell
	"	5	6	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle
	"	12	1	Bay View	Andrle
	"	18	1	Queenston, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
	"	24	8	Queenston, Ont.	Andrle et al
Little Gull	"	5	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Andrle
	"	8	1	Buffalo Harbor	Kikta
	"	12	3	upper Niagara River	G. North
	"	16-27	1-2	upper Niagara River	several observers
	"	18	1	Queenston, Ont.	Rybczynski et al
Bl.-leg. Kittiwake	"	5	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Benham et al
	"	19-29	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Axtell, Mitchell, Rybczynski, Emer- son et al
	"	23	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
	"	30	1	Athol Springs	Bourne

(specimen found dead)

<u>Sabine's Gull</u>	"	19-29	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle, Axtell, Benham, Mitchell, Rybczynski et al
				(specimen collected)	
Common Tern	"	24-28L	1-2	Fort Erie, Ont.	several observers
	"	25	3	Queenston, Ont.	Hess et al
Black Tern	"	12L	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	G. North
Snowy Owl	"	14F	1	Cheektowaga	McKales
	"	16	1	Gaines	Smiths
	"	28	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
	"	29	1	Niagara Falls	Klabundes
Long-eared Owl	"	24	1	Forest Lawn Cem., Buffalo	Hess
Short-eared Owl	"	13	1	Lake View	Bourne
Yellow-sh. Flicker	"	1-30	1-3	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Eastern Phoebe	"	13	1	Queenston, Ont.	Salisbury, Dorst

(specimen collected)

Nov. 28 1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont. Axtell



Horned Lark ( <u>E.a. alpestris</u> )	Nov.	18	5 Belmont	Burtens
	"	21-29	1 Elma	Danner
Tufted Titmouse	"	1	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Hess
	"	3	1 Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	7-28	1 Elma	Danner
Red-br. Nuthatch	"	3	1 Spring Brook	Danner
Carolina Wren	"	3	2 Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Byron
Long-b. Marsh Wren	Nov.	24	1 upper Niagara River, Ontario	Andrle et al
Mockingbird	"	1-30	1 Athol Springs	Csont
	"	4-29	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	24	1 Queenston, Ont.	Andrle et al
Catbird	"	5-29	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Brown Thrasher	"	7-24	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Hermit Thrush	"	15	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Kikta
	"	24L	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
E. Bluebird	"	3	15 Bertie Twp., Ont.	Webster et al
	"	5	4 Town of Porter	Klabundes
	"	11	3 Point Abino, Ont.	Webster
	"	5,24	1,1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	"	1-25L	1 North Boston	Dodge
	"	23	1 Amherst	Inskip, Sangster
	"	25L	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Hess et al
Water Pipit	"	21	2 Elma	Danner
Northern Shrike	"	9F	2 Hamburg	Danner
	"	18	2 Lyndonville	Smiths
	"	24	1 Port Weller, Ont.	Andrle et al
	"	24,29	1,1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	"	28	1 Akron	Benham
Tennessee Warbler	Nov.	5	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
	Nov.	12L	1 Hamburg	Bourne
Nashville Warbler	Nov.	7L	1 North Boston	Dodge
Myrtle Warbler	"	1-12L	1 Alfred	Brooks
	"	12L	3 Alden Center	Rybczynski, Kikta
Bl-t.Gr. Warbler	Nov.	7L	3 North Boston	Dodge
Blackburnian Warbler	Nov.	17	1 Jamestown	Sundell
		(found dead)		
Yellowthroat	"	7	1 Times Beach, Bflo.	Kikta
Canada Warbler	Nov.	11	1 Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rybczynski, Benham, Salisbury et al
Am. Redstart	Nov.	21	1 Scio	Pitzrick
Bobolink	Nov.	7	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.(f)	Axtells
E. Meadowlark	"	5	60 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Rusty Blackbird	"	29	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells
Dickcissel	"	5	1 Hamburg	Andrles
	"	7-12	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells et al
	"	16	1 Hamburg	Andrle, Avery
	"	18-30	1 Rose Hill Rd., Ont.	Axtells et al
Evening Grosbeak	"	9F	1 Spring Brook	Danner
Common Redpoll	"	11F	1 Hamburg	Andrle
	"	17	5 Lake View	Bourne
	"	19	20 Erie Beach, Ont.	Thills
	"	30	25 Wellsville	Burtens
Pine Siskin	"	8	25 Youngstown	Benham
	"	19	7 Hamburg	Bourne

Vol. 33, No. 12 - Noteworthy Records (cont.)

Red Crossbill	Nov.	8F	35	Youngstown	Benham
	"	12	100	Youngstown	Klabundes
	"	15	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Kikta
	"	19	40	Long Beach, Ont.	Benham
	"	19,26	40,6	Youngstown	Klabundes
	"	28	1	Rose Hill Road, Ont.	Axtells
Vesper Sparrow	"	20,24L	1,1	Belmont	Burtons
	"	23	1	Angelica	Burtons
Chipping Sparrow	Nov.	30	1	North Boston (f)	Dodge
Field Sparrow	"	18-21	1	Eggertsville	McKales
W.-cr. Sparrow	"	1-30	1-2	Belmont	Burtons
	"	6-15	5	North Boston (f)	Dodge
	"	21	1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.(f)	Axtells
W.-thr. Sparrow	"	4-26	1-4	Belmont	Burtons
	"	24,25	1,1	Alfred	Klingensmith
	"	29	1	Lewiston	Klabundes
Fox Sparrow	"	7,22L	14,1	Rose Hill Rd., Ont.(f)	Axtells
Swamp Sparrow	"	24	1	upper Niagara River, Ontario	Andrle et al
Lapland Longspur	"	28,29	4,2	Elma	Danner
Snow Bunting	"	11	150	Elma	Danner

Species previously recorded this year:	274
Additional species recorded this issue:	<u>3</u>
Total for 1967:	277

STATISTICIANS' NOTE

Reports of very unusually large numbers of any species of bird are of appreciable ornithological importance, but only if the reported number can be shown to have been determined systematically and responsibly. In behalf of increasing the ornithological value of such records, therefore, observers reporting a very unusually large number of any species are requested henceforth to accompany such a report by a written explanation of the means by which the number was determined.

A CALL FOR A SPECIAL KIND OF REPORTING

John Bull, who is preparing the new book on the birds of New York State, needs data regarding maximum numbers of any kind of bird in one locality at one time - or at least within a single day - for comparison between upstate and downstate areas. Contributors to the Noteworthy Records section of the Prothonotary are therefore requested to give special attention to observing and reporting such maximums noted in New York State to the B.O.S. Compiler. Especially needed are records of small passerines such as warblers or sparrows in numbers that would reflect the occurrence of a local wave or flight. Several examples follow:

Red-tailed Hawk	May	19	21 over Hanover	Burger, Brownstein
Horned Grebe	Apr.	25	150 Cuba Lake	Burtons
Bonaparte's Gull	"	23	3500 Dunkirk Harbor	Andrles, Elderkin
Myrtle Warbler	May	16	60 Lancaster	Grzybowski
Baltimore Oriole	"	6	22 over Lakeview	Clark



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PROGRAM - MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Club Room, Buffalo Museum of Science, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:00 P.M. from September to June inclusive.

- March 13 - Birds of the National Wildlife Refuge. New assistant director of the Iroquois Wildlife Refuge.
- March 27 - Plans for April Bird Count. - V. Lunardini, leader. "Falcons"- David Bigelow.
- April 10 - The Worlds Ornithological Progress - Robert C. Stein.
- April 24 - Report of April Bird Count - V. Lunardini. Warblers and Other Small Birds - Edward L. Seeber.
- May 8 - Plans for Spring Bird Count - Walter Klabunde, leader. Clark's Nutcracker - Art Clark.

PROGRAM - FIELD TRIPS

- March 9 - Grand Island, etc - C. Joudry leader. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at Plaza, Sheridan Drive and Delaware Ave.
- March 24 - Oak Orchard Region - Paul Benham leader. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at Transitown Plaza at Transit Road and Main Street.
- April 7 - April Bird Count - V. Lunardini leader.
- April 28 - Dunkirk and South Shore of Lake Erie. Details to be announced.
- May 19 - May Bird Count - W. Klabunde leader.
- May 25 - Whimbrel Trip - R. Wagner leader.



Please mail records for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joseph Thill, 36 Allegany Avenue, Kenmore, New York, 14217.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Klabunde, 4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, New York, 14092.

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Vol. 33, No. 12 - Please attach to December, 1967 Issue of Vol. 33

INDEX TO VOLUME 33 (January - December, 1967)

Bird records from the Noteworthy Record Section and the B.O.S. Bird Counts requiring written verification reports according to the "Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario" (B.O.S., 1965) are included in this index.

Blackbird, Brewer's, 5, 74	Goose, Barnacle, 50, 70
Blackbird, Yellow-headed, 91	Goose, Snow, 131
Bluebird, 34	Goshawk, 32, 52
Bobolink, 145	Grebe, Eared, 17, 69
Brant, 17	Grosbeak, Pine, 5, 21, 34
Bufflehead, 113, 120	Gull, Black-headed, 19, 32
Bunting, Lark, 5, 21, 34, 56, 74, 91	Gull, Laughing, 72, 132
Chat, Yellow-breasted, 133	Gull, Little, 88, 107, 114
Crossbill, Red, 102	Gull, Mew, 132, 145
Dickcissel, 134, 146	Gull, Sabine's, 132, 145
Dowitcher, Short-billed, 107	Hawk, Pigeon, 72, 132
Duck, Harlequin, 144	Hawk, Red-shouldered, 18
Duck, Wood, 32	Heron, Yellow-crowned Night, 69, 86
Dunlin, 107, 113	Junco, Oregon, 21, 34, 56
Eagle, Golden, 52, 71	Kinglet, Golden-crowned, 102, 120
Egret, Cattle, 69, 101	Kittiwake, Red-legged, 19, 132
Egret, Snowy, 86, 101	Loon, Red-throated, 17, 143
Falcon, Peregrine, 72, 120	Meadowlark, Western, 55
Finch, House, 74, 91	Oldsquaw, 107, 113
Godwit, Hudsonian, 120, 132	Owl, Boreal, 32

- Phalarope, Wilson's, 107, 114, 120  
Phoebe, Eastern, 145  
Plover, Black-bellied, 107  
Rail, Yellow, 144  
Raven, Common, 133  
Redstart, American, 145  
Ruff, 107  
Sanderling, 107  
Sandpiper, Baird's, 107  
Sandpiper, Purple, 3, 19, 32  
Sandpiper, Stilt, 107  
Sandpiper, Western, 107  
Sandpiper, White-rumped, 101, 107  
Scoter, White-winged, 101, 120  
Sparrow, Chipping, 147  
Sparrow, Grasshopper, 134  
Sparrow, Lincoln, 134  
Sparrow, Sharp-tailed, 134  
Sparrow, White-throated, 102  
Swan, Mute, 101, 107  
Swift, Chimney, 132  
Tanager, Scarlet, 134  
Teal, Blue-winged, 2  
Tern, Caspian, 107  
Thrush, Swainson's, 133  
Turnstone, 107  
Vireo, Red-eyed, 133  
Vulture, Turkey, 144  
Warbler, Blackburnian, 146  
Warbler, Black-throated Green, 146  
Warbler, Canada, 146  
Warbler, Lawrence's, 90  
Warbler, Myrtle, 107  
Warbler, Nashville, 146  
Warbler, Pine, 55, 122, 133  
Warbler, Prairie, 90  
Warbler, Prothonotary, 90  
Warbler, Tennessee, 133, 146  
Wheatear, 120  
Whimbrel, 87, 101  
Willet, 88  
Woodpecker, Red-bellied, 4, 54  
Wren, House, 133  
Wren, Long-billed Marsh, 146  
Yellowlegs, Greater, 107



Vol. 33, No. 12 - Index to Vol. 33 (Jan. -Dec., 1967) cont.

#### Bird Counts

Christmas (B.O.S.) 10; in B.O.S. Territory, 7  
January Waterfowl, 23  
April, 75  
May, 93  
Shorebird, 117  
October, 136

Birding in the Dunkirk Area, 82

Bonaparte's Gull Project, 98

"Birds of Wyoming County" by Richard Rosche reviewed, 35

Breeding Bird Survey, 167, 123; Map , 125

B.O.S. Officers, Council Members, and Committees, 1968, 148

B.O.S. Wildlife Refuge Map, 39

B.O.S. Wildlife Sanctuary Program, 38

Continental Breeding Bird Survey, 7

Dramatic Decline in Purple Martins at Jamestown Roost, 115

Eleven Gull Species of the Niagara River, 135

#### Field Trips

Ontario Plain, February 26, 36  
Niagara River, January 29, 36  
Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, March 18, 57  
Breakfast at Timber Trails, June 10, 66  
B.O.S. Sanctuary, April 21, 92  
Canadian Shore, May 27, 92  
Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, August 6, 109  
Canadian Shore, August 27, 115  
Hawk Cliff, September 16, 122  
Niagara Loop, November 25, 135

Lark Bunting at Belmont, 27

The Month, 1, 16, 31, 49, 68, 85, 100, 106, 112, 119, 129, 142

Vol. 33, No. 12 - Index to Vol. 33 (Jan. - Dec., 1967) cont.

1966 Nesting Record, 24

1965 Nesting Season at the Axtells' - Part I, 41

1965 Nesting Season at the Axtells' - Part II, 58

#### Notes and Notices

Audubon Camp Scholarship, 15

B.O.S. Dinner, February 28, 140

Call For Specific Kind of Reporting, 136, 147

Caution concerning this Kind of Reporting, 147

Definite Date for Bird Count Reports, 47

Plant Specimens for Zenkert's Botany Supplement, 40

Reminder to Field Trip Leaders, 57

Request for Back Numbers of The Prothonotary, 115

Special Notice concerning Field Trips, 140

Where to report color-marked Shore birds, 109

Noteworthy Records, 2, 17, 31, 50, 69, 86, 100, 106, 112, 119, 130, 143

Addenda to 1966 Noteworthy Records, 7

Errata to Volume 31, 5

Errata to Volume 32, 6

Errata to Volume 33, 7, 22, 134

Operation Bluebird, 1966, 64

Programs, 15, 29, 47, 67, 84, 99, 105, 110, 116, 128, 140, 149

Fall Bird Walks, 92

Saturday Bird Walks, 22

Purple Martin Disaster, 84

Research Project at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, 22

Sectional Division Map 111

Shorebird Count Experiment, 1967, 117

Statisticians' Notes

Concerning Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 22

Lack of Verification of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 134

Wilson Ornithological Society Meetings, 103

Wildlife Sanctuary Program, 38



CONTRIBUTORS

Robert F. Andrie, 22  
Harold H. Axtell, 1, 10, 16, 31, 41, 49, 68, 85, 112, 119, 129, 142  
Rachel Axtell, 10  
Paul Benham, 92, 139  
Clarence Beal, 115  
Richard Brownstein, 80, 82, 84, 135  
Joanna Burger, 80, 82, 103  
Lou Burton and Doris Burton, 27  
Helen Creighton, 75  
Mary Louise Emerson, 135  
Richard Freitag, 93  
Harriette Klabunde, 36, 38  
Walter Klabunde, 36, 38, 122, 123  
Harold D. Mitchell, 23  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neal, 64  
Edwin Olmstead, 27  
Lynn Rochester, 75  
Edward Seeber, 115, 117  
Daniel Salisbury, 92  
Alice and Ed Ulrich, 36  
Marie Wendling, 92, 109

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